

HOW THE HOUSE OF COMMONS DOES ITS WORK

THE opponents of political reform are continually vaunting the admirable manner in which the House of Commons "as at present constituted"—meaning, as at present elected—does its work, and the perfection with which it represents "all classes and interests in the nation;" and a challenge is thrown out calling upon all who think some change necessary to show in what respect Parliament fails to perform its duties in a perfectly satisfactory manner, or in what way any alteration in its constitution would be improvement. The last point no one can be bound to prove, except by implication. The value of all changes must be tested by experience; and so it must be with Parliamentary Reform. But we are entitled to assume that what is most just in principle is likely to be most beneficial in practical operation. And history bears us out in this assumption. Since 1832 the constitution of Parliament—and by Parliament we mean, of course, the House of Commons, now by far the most important branch of the Legislature—has been more just than it was previously: the people have had a larger share in the councils of the nation; and legislation since then has been confessedly more wise and just, and more calculated to promote the wellbeing of the whole community, than it was at any preceding period in our history. It is reasonable, then, to infer that, if the process of rendering the constitution of Parliament more fair and equitable be carried a degree further, the results will be beneficial in proportion as discretion and sound judgment are brought to bear in the matter.

The future, however, is not that with which we now propose to concern ourselves. We want to ask the question, Is everything in the political machinery of the country as perfect *now*, and has it been so in the *past*, as is so pertinaciously insisted upon? We have no hesitation in answering in the negative. It is not necessary that we should unduly depreciate the character of the present House of Commons. We are willing to admit that it is the first assembly of gentlemen in the world, as it is, also, the finest arena for oratorical display. We do not even deny that its members are actuated by an honest desire to do justly by all classes to the best of their judgment,—so far as their feelings are not warped or blinded by prejudice and latent selfishness. We may concede to Mr. Disraeli that Parliament will bear favourable comparison with any similar body, either in the Old World or in the New. But all such comparisons are unsatisfactory. Bodies of men as well as individuals must be judged by the lights they have possessed, and by the experience, the powers, and the opportunities they have enjoyed. The British Parliament has had great advantages over all other Parliaments, and it may well be questioned if it has done its duty proportionately better. Of those to whom much is given, much will be required. Tried by this test, we fear the House of Commons will be found somewhat wanting, much as it boasts itself and is boasted of by its apologists. And that because of certain faults in the way in which it is "at present constituted"—that is, elected.

Saith one of Mr. Disraeli's ill-starred and now defunct resolutions, "It is contrary to the Constitution of this realm to give to any one class or interest a predominating power over the rest of the community." Exactly so. To give such a pre-dominating power to one class is contrary to the spirit of the Constitution. But, unfortunately, theory and practice have not been quite harmonious in this matter; and to remove this want of harmony is the object of Parliamentary Reformers. Such a "predominating power" as that condemned in the Conservative resolution has existed, does exist, and ought to be abolished. The class of landed men in this country does now possess, and long has possessed, such a predominating power, and has used it for the advancement of what it has deemed its own interests, mistaking, it may be, class interests for those of the whole community. That this was so in the past, witness the corn laws, proprietary boroughs, special exemptions of land from taxation in various forms, the shifting of the burden of the defence of the country from the land, on which it was laid originally, and especially when a re-distribution of the soil was made at the Conquest, to the shoulders of "the rest of the community." This neat little operation was completed in the reign of Charles II., that golden epoch in English legislation to which Mr. De Gruyther and others are so fond of referring us. Then the landed interest, by virtue of its "predominating power," has appropriated to itself all the mineral wealth of the country, as well as the increment of value which the development of manufactures and commerce has given to the soil—a result of the industry of classes other than landowners, and to which the landed men have, as a body, contributed comparatively little or nothing. When William I. parcelled out the soil of England among his followers, on condition of rendering him suit and service in their own persons, and of providing, when called upon, a certain number of trained and armed warriors—on condition, that is, of defending the country—it was of the surface of the soil only that account was taken. The mineral wealth beneath was unknown, uncared for, and unconveyed. The landed interest, however, have seized upon all that which, not having been included in the gift of the surface, belonged of right to the State—that is, to "the rest of the community" as well as to the landed class. They manage that matter, at least, better in Belgium. In that country the nation at large is held to have an interest in all beneath the surface of the soil; and no minerals can be worked till a license has been obtained from, and a lordship paid to, the State, as represented by the Government. Would not some such arrangement have been made in this country had not the landed interest usurped "a predominating power over the rest of

the community"? We are aware that it is impossible to introduce such an arrangement now, or to enforce the old obligation of the land to defend the country. Property has changed hands too often—has been bought and sold, paid for and exchanged, on the understanding and subject to the rights which now obtain, for any such notion to be entertained for a moment. But, as the landed interest still possesses the predominating power, and still enjoys advantages derived therefrom, it behoves "the rest of the community" to take securities against further wrong by destroying that "predominating power" of the landed class.

Passing from the domain of bygone history to existing facts, we say that it is in consequence of the existence of "a predominating power" in one class over the rest of the community that the game laws still remain upon the statute-book, to cause heart-burning among different classes and foster a breed of criminals; that obnoxious Church establishments, especially in Ireland, seem to convert the messengers of the gospel of peace into messengers of enmity and strife; that a bad system of promotion—that by purchase—reserves the officering of the Army mainly for the sons of landed men, shutting out all other classes from a reasonable hope of distinction in a military career, "to the loss, injury, and damage" of "the rest of the community"; and that waste and abuses exist in the management of the Army, the Navy, and other departments of the Government, the chief control over which is monopolised by the landed class or those dependent upon them. The existence of these evils proves that the House of Commons is not perfectly immaculate in its working, and that, therefore, reforms are needed in its constitution.

We think we have made out a tolerably strong case, and need say little more. But exception may even be taken to the manner in which the House of Commons "as at present constituted" treats some of its own members, and, through them, injures the rest of the community. We had not long ago two notable instances of this. Mr. Lowe is one of those who have advanced strong claims for the perfection of the action of our present political machinery; and ill-natured people may be inclined to say that, as he must be the best judge of his own merits, and as he was made a victim of party spleen and class prejudice, he must have deserved the treatment he received. We will not be so unjust, however. We think Mr. Lowe was extremely ill-used by the House of Commons, which, through him, did a serious injury to the nation in depriving it of the services of an exceedingly able man and a clear-minded, painstaking, and bold public servant—one, moreover, of the comparatively few of our living political characters on whom the name of statesman can be justly conferred. But Mr. Lowe was not the only sacrifice to class prejudice offered by the "predominating power" of the landed interest in the House of Commons "as at present constituted." Mr. Stansfeld was also victimised, and at a time, too, when he was engaged in bringing something like method into the confusion worse confounded that is admitted to reign in financial affairs at the Admiralty. Very much in consequence of the loss of Mr. Stansfeld's services to the country is it that Admiralty reform is as far off and as difficult of attainment as ever. That was the doing of the House of Commons "as at present constituted"—that is, as elected according to the existing system; and it furnishes another argument against allowing "a predominating power" to reside in one class to the disadvantage of the "rest of the community."

"A KNITTING LESSON."

THIS clever little picture, which we engrave from the original in the Exhibition by Female Artists in Conduit-street, is painted by Miss Adelaide Burgess. A homely incident is treated very unpretendingly, and the effect is pleasing. We can cordially recommend our readers to visit the gallery, where they will find much to interest them over and above the painting of which we present a copy to them.

A PROCLAMATION IN WATER COLOURS.—Amongst the articles from Tasmania shown in the Exhibition at Melbourne is a curious specimen of a pictorial proclamation, lately discovered on taking up the floor of the old Government House in Hobart Town. It seems that Governor Davis, in the year 1816, found that merely printed proclamations about law and order were not very effectual among the natives, for a reason which one of them conveyed to the Governor in the following pithy though not very courtly speech:—"I say, Guboner, that proclamation of yours all gammon: black fellow no able read him." The Governor, struck with the objection, caused to be printed in water colours, and on a moderate-sized sheet of drawing-paper, a series of groups of figures vigorously illustrative of the impartiality of British law, whether applied to white or black men. One group represents a black boy and a white boy hand-in-hand, like two brothers; another group shows a black mother nursing a white baby, and a white mother nursing a black baby. A third group exhibits a white man strung up to the bough of a tree by the neck for killing a black man, whose murdered body is lying on one side of the picture, while a guard of red-coated soldiers, headed by the Governor in cocked-hat and feathers, is presiding over the execution, on the other side. As a counterpart to this is a similar group, with the difference that the murdered man is white, while a black fellow dangles from the improvised gallows. The whole work—its not very artistic drawing supplemented by the boldness of its colouring—is an amusing illustration of the early history of Van Diemen's Land.

FEARFUL DISASTER ON THE LONDON AND NORTH-WESTERN RAILWAY.—On Tuesday night, as a luggage-train from the south was passing Clifton, the axle of one of the waggon's broke. After proceeding a short distance the wagon ran off the rails, and then general confusion ensued; other waggons and some vans, including one which contained about four tons of gunpowder, ran off the metals, and the train was speedily brought to a standstill. The gunpowder-van, along with another containing salt, was "slewed" upon the line running southwards, and thus the whole of the road was entirely blocked up. Not long after the accident happened a goods-train for the south came up, and the confusion was so great that sufficient means were not taken to check it, and in a few minutes the engine came into collision with the gunpowder-van. Either the concussion which ensued or the sparks emitted from the engines produced one of the most terrific disasters ever witnessed on a railway, for the moment after the engine struck the van all the powder it contained exploded with fearful force. The entire four tons of gunpowder blew up in one vast cloud of smoke and flame, the latter illuminating the entire district, and the explosion seemed to shake it fairly to its centre. The earth quivered as if in the throes of an earthquake, and the shock terrified people for miles around. Waggons and goods of all sorts were whirled about in every direction, and a scene of destruction seldom, if ever, witnessed on a railway was presented. The driver and stoker of the engine which ran into the powder-van were instantly killed. Goods contained in both trains were set on fire, as were also some of the waggons, and they continued to burn for hours. The shock of the explosion was heard for sixteen or twenty miles, and the windows of houses three or four miles distant were shaken, and in some instances broken. About six hours and a half elapsed before both lines were cleared.

Foreign Intelligence.

FRANCE.

There has been a debate in the French Corps Législatif on the abolition of the Address. M. Jules Favre was the principal speaker on the Opposition side, and strongly denounced the change. M. Rouher replied to him, and M. Emile Ollivier spoke also in favour of the change. The strength of the Opposition on the question may be judged by the division on the question that the Chamber should proceed to the order of the day. There were for the motion 241, against it 25. At the sitting of the Corps Législatif on the 22nd ult. a question addressed to the Government as to the circular of M. Vandal directing the opening of letters by the Post-office officials was put by M. Pelletan, who strongly condemned the circular. M. Rouher, with great tact, acknowledged that the circular was irregular, and thus appeased the wrath of the Opposition, and the simple order of the day was adopted by a large majority.

ROME.

At a secret consistory, held on the 22nd ult., the Pope announced his intention to canonise Brother Leonardo, of Porto Maurizio. His Holiness then delivered a short allocution, in which he adverted to his letter to King Victor Emmanuel in 1865, written with the object of providing for the vacant bishoprics, and declared that the negotiations for that purpose, which have now been resumed, were not broken off through the fault of the Holy See. His Holiness lamented the fact that the bishops whom he sends to empty churches will find their property appropriated and their religious congregations expelled, adding—"They will find affliction and misery. Nevertheless, we send them for the salvation of souls. They will go in the name of Jesus Christ, confiding in the protection of the Mother of God." His Holiness concluded by stating that it was not expedient to say more in the present state of things; but, unless God interposed, the future was clearly to be foretold by the deplorable events which have already taken place. "Nevertheless," said his Holiness, "we must rely upon the protection of Heaven to change our sorrow into joy."

PRUSSIA.

A deputation from North Schleswig has been endeavouring to have an interview with Count Bismarck in Berlin. The Count, however, was too much indisposed to see the deputation, and it therefore submitted a petition praying that the stipulations of the Treaty of Prague relative to the vote in North Schleswig should be carried out. To this a written answer was returned announcing that some time must elapse before a definite reply could be given. In the mean time the deputation had better go home.

An arrangement has been effected between the Prussian Government and the Duke of Nassau. An understanding is also stated to be on the point of conclusion with King George, late of Hanover.

AUSTRIA.

An Imperial patent has been issued from Vienna dissolving the Bohemian Diet and ordering fresh elections. The reason alleged for this step is that the resolutions adopted by the majority of the Diet, if they received Imperial sanction, would frustrate the successful settlement of the Constitutional relations of the monarchy.

In the sitting of the Lower House of the Hungarian Diet, on the 24th ult., a Royal rescript, countersigned by Count Andrássy, was read appointing the new Hungarian Ministry, as follows:—Count Andrássy, President of the Ministry; M. Festetics, *Adiutus*, Minister for Foreign Affairs; M. Wenckheim, Interior; M. Lougay, Finance; Baron Eötvös, Worship and Public Instruction; M. Horvath, Justice; M. Niko, Public Works; M. Gorove, Agriculture, Industry, and Commerce. The portfolio of the Minister of War, or, properly speaking, of the Landwehr, is provisionally intrusted to the President of the Ministry, until the military reorganisation scheme and the rights of the Crown in reference to the army shall be constitutionally settled. Various addresses of confidence have been forwarded to the newly appointed Ministers, not only from the Magyars, but also from Saxon, Servian, and Roumanian communes.

CRETE.

According to a Paris telegram, there has been more fighting in Crete. The insurgents are said to have beaten the Turks, and, though the latter received reinforcements, they could not regain their ground.

THE UNITED STATES.

By advices from New York we learn that the House of Representatives at Washington had passed a bill for the civil government of Louisiana, providing for the appointment by the President of a person not implicated in the rebellion as governor for one year; also for the appointment, with the consent of the Senate, of a provisional council of nine persons not implicated in the rebellion, who shall exercise legislative powers and cause the election of a Legislature and State officers for one year. Congress to approve all acts of the council. The bill also provides that the electors are to be citizens not implicated in the rebellion, and without distinction of colour, and that a convention chosen by electors thus qualified shall be convened for the month of October next to form a permanent State Constitution, not permitting any distinction on account of colour, acknowledging the perpetuity of the Union, and repudiating the rebel debt; such Constitution to be presented to Congress as the basis for the admission of Louisiana to representation, and the President to appoint a military commander to assist the authorities in executing the laws. The bill finally provides that Louisiana shall be entitled to send one delegate to the House of Representatives, chosen by the above electors, until its admission as a State.

President Johnson had laid before the Cabinet a veto upon a bill passed by Congress for the military government of the Southern States.

The Kansas Legislature had adopted an amendment striking out the words "white" and "male" from the State Constitution. The Missouri Legislature had refused to submit the amendment disfranchising rebels to the people for ratification.

MEXICO.

It really is difficult to reconcile, or, indeed, to take much interest in, the intelligence we receive from Mexico. There appears to have been some fighting between the troops of Miramon (Imperialist) and Escobedo (Republican), in the vicinity of Zacatecas, of which place the former seems to have obtained possession. Juarez was reported to be either captured or to have fled.

Republican accounts announce that Porfirio Diaz had captured Tehuantepec. The Republicans under Alvarez are stated to have been in the immediate vicinity of the capital. The same accounts assert the Emperor Maximilian to be moving towards Vera Cruz, with the design of embarking for Europe.

Marshal Bazaine had announced that Frenchmen joining the Mexican army would no longer be able to claim French protection. Many Frenchmen were consequently leaving the army of the Emperor Maximilian.

GENERAL GARIBALDI arrived in Venice on Tuesday. He received an enthusiastic welcome.

A NICHE LITTLE JOE.—The House of Commons, in spite of much evasion and discouragement, is continuing its researches into the origin and composition of the vote for the Paris Exhibition. It seems that the "Executive" is doing things in the grandest, pleasantest style. It has taken a splendid mansion in the Champs Elysées, in which there are forty beds and general accommodation for forty-seven secretaries. For the maintenance of this modest establishment about £32,000 is asked for under the head of "management" and "office expenses," which is nearly as much as the entire expenses incurred in connection with the last Paris Exhibition. Then there is £3750 for the Royal Commission, and £12,000 for the jurors, making, altogether, £46,750 for personal expenses; of which, however, we are told the jurors are to have only £4300 among them, the rest of the £12,000 going nobody knows where at present. It is intolerable that all this should be permitted. The latest report from the "Department of Science and Art" is that the expenses are to be "greatly curtailed," which, of course, implies that they were previously on a somewhat extravagant scale.

OPENING OF THE NORTH GERMAN PARLIAMENT.

SPEECH OF KING WILLIAM.

THE first Session of the North German Parliament was opened, on Sunday, in Berlin, by the King of Prussia in person. On the right of the throne were the Crown Prince and the other Royal Princes, with the exception of Prince Frederick Charles, who took his place among the members of the Parliament. On the left of the throne were the Federal Plenipotentiaries, headed by Count Bismarck, in military uniform. The Queen, the Crown Princess, and her Royal Highness's eldest son, Princess Frederick Charles, Prince William of Baden, Prince Nicholas of Nassau, Prince Henry of Hesse, and almost all the diplomatic body were present, and the number of spectators was very great.

The King of Prussia, who was received on entering with the most enthusiastic cheers, read the following speech from the throne:—

Illustrious, Noble, and Honourable Gentlemen
of the North German Confederation,—

It is an elevating moment in which I come among you. Mighty events have brought it about. Great hopes are bound up with it. I thank Divine Providence which has led Germany towards the object desired by her people by paths we neither chose nor foresaw, for the privilege of giving expression to these hopes in community with an Assembly such as has not surrounded any German Prince for centuries. Relying upon this guidance, we shall attain that object all the earlier the clearer we recognise, looking back upon the history of Germany, the causes that have led us and our forefathers away from it.

Formerly powerful, great, and honoured, because united and guided by strong hands, the German Empire did not sink into disunion and weakness without both its head and its members being in fault. Deprived of weight in the councils of Europe, of influence over her own history, Germany became the arena of the struggles of foreign Powers, for which she furnished the blood of her children, the battle-fields, and the prizes of combat. But the longing of the German people for what it had lost has never ceased, and the history of our time is filled with the efforts of Germany and the German people to regain the greatness of their past. If these efforts have hitherto not attained their object—if they have only increased disunion in place of healing it, because people allowed themselves to be deceived by hopes or misapprehensions as to the value of the present, by ideals as to the importance of facts—we recognise in that the necessity of seeking the union of the German people in company with facts, and of not again sacrificing what is within our reach to what we may desire.

In this sense the allied Governments, in accordance with old accustomed practice, have agreed upon a number of defined and limited but practically important arrangements, as immediately possible as they are undoubtedly requisite. The draught of the Constitution which will be laid before you asks from the independence of individual States for the benefit of the whole only such sacrifices as are indispensable to protect peace, to guarantee the security of federal territory, and the development of the prosperity of its inhabitants.

I have to thank my allies for the readiness with which they have met the requirements of the common Fatherland. I express this gratitude with the consciousness that I, too, would have found ready to display the same devotion to the general welfare of Germany if Providence had not placed me, as heir to the Prussian Crown, at the head of the most powerful State of the Confederation, and for that reason the one called to the leadership of the commonwealth. I feel myself, however, strong in the conviction that all the successes of Prussia have tended at the same time towards the restoration and elevation of German power and honour.

Notwithstanding the general readiness—and although the mighty events of the past year have convinced all men of the paramount necessity for reconstructing the German Constitution, thus rendering the public mind more favourably inclined towards such a measure than it had previously been and perhaps might be at a later period—we have again perceived during the negotiations how difficult is the task of attaining complete unanimity between so many independent Governments, which have also in their concessions to bear in mind the views of their separate estates. The more, Gentlemen, you realise these difficulties, the more carefully I am convinced you will bear in mind, in your examination of the draught, the heavy responsibility with regard to the dangers that might arise to the peaceful and legal execution of the work now commenced, if the agreement arrived at with the Governments upon the bill now laid before you could not again be obtained for the alterations demanded by the Parliament. The point of supreme importance at present is not to neglect the favourable moment for laying the foundations of the building; its more perfect completion can then safely remain entrusted to the subsequent combined co-operation of the German Sovereigns and Rases.

The regulation of the national relations of the North German Confederation towards our brothers south of the Main has been left by the peace treaties of last year to the voluntary agreement of both parties. Our hands will be opened and readily extended to bring about this understanding as soon as the North German Confederation has advanced far enough in the settlement of its Constitution to be empowered to conclude treaties. The preservation of the Zollverein, the common promotion of trade, and a combined guarantee for the security of German territory will form fundamental conditions of the understanding which it may be foreseen will be desired by both parties.

As the direction of the German mind generally is turned towards peace and its labours, the confederate association of the German States will mainly assume a defensive character. The German movement of recent years has borne no hostile tendency towards our neighbours, no striving after conquest, but has arisen solely from the necessity of affording the broad domains from the Alps to the sea the essential conditions of political progress which the march of development in former centuries has impeded. The German races unite only for defence, and not for attack; and that their brotherhood is also regarded in this light by neighbouring nations is proved by the friendly attitude of the mightiest European States, which see Germany, without apprehension and envy, take possession of those same advantages of a great political commonwealth which they themselves have already enjoyed for centuries.

It, therefore, now only depends upon us, upon our unity and our patriotism, to secure to the whole of Germany the guarantees of a future in which, free from the danger of again falling into disunion and weakness, she will be able to further by her own decision her Constitutional development and prosperity, and to fulfil her peace-loving mission in the council of nations. I trust in God that posterity, looking back upon our common labours, will not say that the experience of former unsuccessful attempts has been useless to the German people, but that, on the other hand, our children will thankfully regard this Parliament as the commencement of the unity, freedom, and power of the Germans.

Gentlemen, all Germany, even beyond the limits of our Confederation, anxiously awaits the decisions that may be arrived at here. May the dream of centuries, the yearning and striving of the latest generations, be realised by our common work! In the name of all the allied Governments—in the name of Germany—I confidently call upon you to help us to carry out rapidly and safely the great national task. And may the blessing of God, upon which every thing depends, accompany and promote the patriotic work!

Three times during the delivery of the speech his Majesty was interrupted by loud cheers. At the conclusion of the speech Count Bismarck declared the Parliament to be open. The King then bowed three times to the Assembly, and quitted the hall amid great enthusiasm.

A spectator in the hall died during the ceremony.

ONE THING SETTLED.—A story being current that Mr. Tilton, editor of the *New York Independent*, and Anna Dickinson, had matrimonial designs upon each other, Mr. T. responded to a letter of inquiry on the subject as follows:—"Ottawa, Ill., Jan. 21, 1867. My dear Sir,—In reply to your kind inquiry whether the story be indeed true that I am to marry my pleasant friend, Miss Anna Dickinson, permit me just to mention (what must suffice for the present) that in this, as in every other important matter, I am bound by a rule which I have observed for now nearly eleven years; and that is not to take a conclusive action without the advice of Mrs. Elizabeth H. Tilton, a very sensible woman, and the wife of yours truly, THEODORE TILTON."

METROPOLITAN POOR RELIEF.—A Parliamentary return shows what would have been the result upon the poor rates in the past year if there had been charged upon a common fund for the metropolis the cost of lunatics salaries and rations of officers, medical salaries and extra fees, registration and vaccination fees, and the cost of maintaining children in district or separate schools, as proposed in Mr. Hardy's bill. On the west district, as a whole, the charge would have been increased 19 per cent.; in Paddington, 57 per cent.; in St. George's, Hanover-square, 54 per cent.; while in Chelsea there would have been a decrease of 10 per cent. On the north district the increase would be 7 per cent.—21 per cent. in Islington, 34 per cent. in Hampstead, 2 per cent. decrease in St. Pancras. On the central district the increase is 6 per cent., owing to an increase of 60 per cent. in the City of London Union; in almost every other part of this district there is a decrease ranging from 5 to (in St. Luke's) 13 per cent., and (in the Strand Union) 18 per cent. On the east district there is a decrease of 16 per cent.—an increase of 8 per cent. in Poplar, but a decrease of 12 per cent. in Mile-end, of 18 per cent. in Bethnal-green, of 21 per cent. in Shoreditch and Stepney, and of 22 per cent. in Whitechapel and St. George's-in-the-East. On the south district there is a decrease of 5 per cent.—an increase of 16 per cent. in Wandsworth and Clapham, and of 51 per cent. in Lewisham; but a decrease in all the other unions and parishes, rising to as much as 15 per cent. in Bermondsey, 16 per cent. in Lambeth and Rotherhithe, 17 per cent. in Newington, and 31 per cent. in St. George's, Southwark. This last parish, therefore, will have its poor rate diminished by very nearly one-third.

THE OUTBREAK IN KERRY.

THE prisoners—ten in number—who were arrested in Killarney, Cahirciveen, and the vicinity, during the recent disturbances, on suspicion of having been connected with the insurgent bands, were examined before a bench of magistrates, at Cahirciveen, on Saturday. The proceedings caused great excitement in the town, which, it being market day, was thronged by people, who collected in large numbers around the Courthouse. For this reason, as well as for the purpose of keeping secret any information which might be elicited during the inquiry, the magistrates determined on holding the inquiry in private and excluding even the representatives of the press; but, as it resulted in the discharge of all the prisoners, the substance of the evidence given was soon made public. Of the prisoners, only one, a young man named Thompson, was above the rank of labourer. He was an assistant in a hardware establishment in Cahirciveen, and an alibi was satisfactorily established on his behalf by his aunt, the proprietress of the establishment, who deposed that, on the night of the "rising," she saw him going to bed in her house, in which he remained all night, and could not have left it without her knowledge. Her evidence was corroborated by her servant, and Thompson was accordingly discharged, without bail. Flannery, the driver of the mail-car on which Moriarty was arrested, stated that, on the morning after the event, he was stopped by a body of Fenians, near Glenbeigh, and questioned by a person on horseback whom they called "Colonel" as to whether there was any "break out" in Killarney. Flannery, in terror for his own person and for the safety of the mails in his charge, answered the doughty commander very respectfully, "No Sir; and no sign of such a thing any more than there was two months ago." He was then asked, "Was there a man taken out of your car last night?" to which he answered in the affirmative. The "Colonel" then condescendingly shook hands with him, and desired him to get on as quickly as he could, a command which he joyfully obeyed. He was not able to identify any of the persons before the court as having been among the "Colonel's" band. Three persons connected with a public-house on the Cahirciveen road had seen a body of insurgents who visited the house on the morning after the outbreak, but all positively asserted that the prisoners were not among them. One of these witnesses, a young woman named Grady, stated that her unwelcome guests consumed £6 worth of whisky and bread, and that when she asked for payment they told her that the Irish Republic would pay her. There being no direct evidence against any of the prisoners, and the time of some others having been satisfactorily, or at least plausibly, accounted for, the magistrates decided on releasing them on their giving solvent bail to appear when called on. The bail was procured, and the prisoners, on being liberated, received an enthusiastic ovation from the people outside the Courthouse, Thompson being escorted home by upwards of 200 persons.

The latest account of the outrage upon Constable Duggan exhibits the atrocity of his assailants in a darker light than the previous versions of the affair. It appears that when he was shot he was crossing a bridge over a rapid mountain torrent, and that, after falling from his horse, he rose and staggered to the edge of the bank, down which a steep and dangerous path led to a little cabin almost under the bridge. Down this path he tried to crawl, but fell nearly the whole distance, and on reaching the foot he dragged himself with difficulty into the miserable hut, on the clay floor of which he fell, weltering in his blood. Just as he got inside, one of his assailants fired a shot in the direction of the hut, and the bullet, penetrating the thatch, was flattened against the wall close to where he fell. Some of them then entered the cabin, and took from him his despatches, one of them waving over the wounded man a sword, which he boasted had been taken from the dead body of Sub-inspector Anketell. It was, indeed, that officer's weapon; but it had been stolen from him the previous evening very ingeniously. A boy was sent to the hotel at which he was stopping with a false message, requiring his attendance at the barracks, whither he repaired immediately; but, not being in uniform, he did not take his sword with him, and during his absence it was carried off by some Fenian emissary to equip his leader. Duggan's assailants, probably thinking that his moments were numbered, did him no further injury, and departed, after firing a shot or two through the cabin door, as they facetiously explained, "to let daylight in."

FREEMEN VOTERS.—A Parliamentary return just issued states the practice in the various boroughs of England in regard to the admission of freemen to the roll of the Parliamentary electors. Nearly sixty boroughs, including London, Liverpool, and Bristol, are described as still conferring the Parliamentary franchise upon persons admitted as freemen by right of birth or servitude. But customs differ. In Durham all sons of tailors, drapers, and mercers (freemen) can claim their freedom by right of birth, but only the eldest sons of other traders. In Oxford the son of a freeman is entitled to his freedom if he was born within the ancient limits of the city, but not if born elsewhere, unless his father, before the son's birth "put a bond in the chest" for payment of city taxes. A list is given of some seventy boroughs, including Great Yarmouth and Reigate, in which there are no freemen. A list of nearly thirty boroughs is given in which no new freemen could be created after the Reform Act and the Municipal Corporations Act, and in these the race is becoming extinct. In Southampton there are three left; in Buckingham, Wigan, and Winchester, two; in Bath, Chipping Wycombe, Dartmouth, Portsmouth, and Truro, only one. It seems strange reading now that it is to be found in another return just issued stating the nature of the suffrage in each Parliamentary borough before the Reform Act of 1832. In some boroughs the franchise was limited to the corporation; in Bamber it was in the inhabitants of houses built on ancient foundations; in Richmond, in the owners of ancient burghages. In Preston and Windsor the franchise was in all the inhabitants; in Tregony, in "all the inhabitants that provided for themselves, whether they lived under the same roof or not."

ENORMOUS PRICE FOR AN ENGRAVING.—On Saturday last an engraving by Rembrandt, "Christ Healing the Sick," called "The Hundred-guilder Piece," was offered for sale at the rooms of Messrs. Sotheby, Wilkinson, and Hodge, in Wellington-street. The first sum offered was £200, and, after a long and animated competition. It was finally adjudged to Mr. C. J. Palmer, of Bedford-row, at the enormous sum of £1180, amidst tremendous applause. It was described as "a magnificent impression in the first state, before the diagonal lines on the neck of the ass on the right, &c., with marvellous effect of burr; undoubtedly the finest known. It is on Japanese paper, with large margin, and is in the most perfect condition. It was originally obtained, with a large number of his finest works, from Rembrandt himself, by J. P. Zomers, who sold them to Signor Zanetti, a distinguished amateur of Venice. It remained in the possession of his descendants until early in the present century, when Baron Denon purchased the entire collection of engravings and etchings. At his sale, in 1826, the works of Rembrandt were bought in one lot by Messrs. Woodburn. This print subsequently became the property of Baron Verstolk, of Amsterdam, and when his collection was dispersed in 1847, Sir Charles Price obtained it. He allowed it to be exhibited at Manchester in 1857, and at the Law Institution in 1862. Not more than eight impressions in this state are known. First, the one above described; two are in the British Museum; the fourth is in Mr. Holford's possession; the fifth now belongs to the Duke of Buccleuch; the sixth is in the Bibliothèque Impériale, Paris; the seventh is in the Imperial Library, Vienna, having an inscription in Rembrandt's handwriting on the back to the effect that it was the seventh taken from the plate; and the eighth is in the Museum at Amsterdam."

THE FIVE SENSES.

NO. V.—TASTING.

THERE is wisdom in making tasting the last of the senses, for that it may be exercised to perfection all the other four must contribute to it. Assuredly there are few pleasanter sights than a well-appointed board, few occasions whereon the whole humanity is more in union than those which are devoted to what—too often with a coarse and unworthy meaning—are called the pleasures of the table. There are few sounds more calculated to stir the good that is within us than those of cheery welcome, friendly interest, and grateful acceptance of a common delight which belong to a good dinner. Men and women of the most refined sentiment and delicate appreciation have not only recognised but discussed the exquisite delights of a good dinner; and Charles Lamb has, in one of his most charming reflections, dwelt even on the variety of flavour in the ordinary viands and the subtle enjoyment of a moderate banquet.

Of course it follows that the fifth sense is not fully gratified by the mere act of eating, and equally that no solitary diner can be said to taste his food, unseasoned as it is by those things which, belonging to the four first senses, culminate in the fifth. The mere contact of meats with the palate is but another form of feeling; it is not tasting. Nay, we may go further, and say that the partaking of food in its merely physical aspect is but phenomenal, and that that sense of tasting to which all the bodily powers seem to contribute that they may be themselves upheld and nourished has a higher relation than any single one alone. The notion that eating and drinking are the lowest and most material occupation of our daily life is essentially false, because the people who so represent them cannot see the meaning of the act. When they have discovered what it is to taste, even plain fare will have acquired a new flavour; and that which has been regarded as belonging to the lower part of our nature will be found to relate most intimately to the higher, as the crown and perfection of sensation on which the light of the spiritual world may shine not infrequently.

It would be possible, if one dared to enter into such a subject, to illustrate this truth by examples, some of which are too sacred for a rambling essay.

If much of the evil that has cursed the world has been connected with excess and the coarse indulgence of mere depraved appetite, so the most solemn and glorious blessings that have been garnered for mankind have been revealed, as it were, at a harvest feast; have been made known "in the breaking of bread," and on occasions where loving fellowship and thankful participation have given a joy to the repast. Therefore, eating and drinking are not merely and solely to be regarded as the means of appeasing hunger; and none are in greater danger of excess than those who profess so to explain the gratification of the fifth sense. The hog, with his feet in the trough, eats to satisfy hunger, and wallows with inordinate repletion; the man has an intention not entirely apart from physical need, but immeasurably above it; and, in this regard, eating and drinking, instead of an earthly pleasure, may be akin to a heavenly joy. Deliver us, then, from people who pretend not to care when, or where, or what they eat; they lose the savour of life; they may almost be said to refuse a sacrament, and are more in danger of becoming gluttons or wine-bibbers than those who commemorate each day with an appropriate feast. The consideration of the connection of this subject with that first eating of the forbidden fruit, and all that is thereby involved, must be left to the thoughtful reader; for the apple of Eden itself suggests those first orchard days of childhood when the trees burgeoned with their load of fruit and we had not yet listened to the voice of the serpent.

It is a favourite theory that "stolen sweets are best;" but no boy who has robbed an orchard will indorse it. The spoil may be grateful to the thirsty palate; but it is devoured in hurry and fear, and retribution comes in the shape of subsequent physic and enforced abstinence. To enjoy, there must be liberty not only of choice but of conscience; and the pilfered feast has a remote and awful resemblance to the condemned breakfast. There is a legend that the malefactor who awaits execution has whatever he likes for his last meal. A awful gratification of the last sense for the last time! The eating of sour fruit in the dark, with a dead anticipation of the cane and a black draught, must be somewhat symbolical of this. No, no; there must be liberty, the liberty that makes us free—not license; the tree of which we may not eat being only the tree of which we will not eat. Then we may roam the garden at peace, shake down the rosy fruit, and revel in its ripe abundance as we share the richest clusters.

Let us beware of solitary eating—of climbing into our own tree (as though any tree were our own) and there gorging selfishly. We shall assuredly get a chill and lay the foundation of dyspepsia, and consequent calomel. The boy who will climb a tree and secretly devour pippins runs a dreadful risk of becoming the man who dines at the pastrycook's, than whom surely no being can be more miserable. These are the men who—no; they don't die, they eat their principal meals at these places. Goodness knows what they have. There is no choice between chop or steak, mulligatawny soup and sausage-rolls. They are misanthropes, and even the blandishments of the young ladies, with their hair in ribbons, behind the counter have no appreciable effect on them.

The admirers of these sweet creatures don't show their devotion by dining; they may sacrifice themselves to the extent of buns, or veal patties, or raspberry puffs which fall in greasy flakes into the bosom of their best waistcoats; but they go no further. Not even the most robust affection could survive a series of dinners at a rickety, marble-topped table in that awful, dingy back parlour; even the buns are a trial, and require a great deal of counteracting stimulus.

And yet some men seem to retain their youthful liking for this kind of cheap pastry. That is a very wonderful fact. There is a certain establishment under the very shadow of St. Paul's where you may see mild-looking gentlemen, in sober-coloured clothes of rather plain fashion, eating buns as though they were performing a mildly interesting duty. They are, it is supposed, either Curates from the country or students of Dissenting colleges "up for a supply." It is possible that the young ladies can guess pretty accurately what are their "views" from the nature of the refreshment to which they are particularly attached—and there is no small variety, from the chicken and old port of the High Church to the tea and muffins of the Low or the chop and sherry of the Broad. The number of buns consumed there in the "Evangelical" interest must be perfectly astonishing; and no doubt the contemplation of the clergy is particularly edifying to the dowagers and their wards who, being "out shopping," comfort themselves with mock turtle in winter and strawberry ice in summer. Women never seem to lose their taste for buns. On the well-regulated female mind a bun seems to have an effect similar to that exercised on the caged lark by the little round pad of turf introduced into the cage. Directly they begin to devour the soft, puffy mass, they renew their youth and look as though they could soar and sing. Ices they consume with a subdued and solemn joy; and it is a wonderful source of speculation to see them attack a vanilla in the morning without betraying the slightest emotion or a twinge of toothache. It is best to watch the operation from outside, however; for the devoted wretch who shall be inveigled into that bilious retreat and there have to choose between enlargement of the liver and an insane attempt to appear at ease while playing a tune on his teeth with the handle of the parasol which has been consigned to his keeping, will be long before he recovers the use of any one of his Five Senses.

THE NEW DOCKS AT THE ISLE OF DOGS.

ENORMOUS excavations for these docks have now been made by 3000 men, who have of late been at work on them; and the outlines of docks, wharfs, and warehouses can now be traced. The freehold property purchased by the company comprises an area of 200 acres, having a circumference of about 2½ miles. Thirty-five acres and a half have been excavated for the purposes of a floating dock, having two basins, one of 25 acres in extent, the remaining 10½ acres being occupied by the other. The depth of water in each will be about 28 ft. or 29 ft. All the materials excavated have been available for making embankments and a roadway. Every foot of excavation has added 2 ft. to the depth of the projected dock, for the sand and mud dug out have been thrown up on the embankment, so that in some places the surface has been raised as much as 10½ ft. A large graving-dock is being constructed. This dock is 420 ft. by 86 ft., and will have an entrance 65 ft. wide. The docks will have a frontage of 7700 ft., which is to be occupied as wharves or sites for warehouses and manufactories; while the other parts of the land will be hereafter made available for dwelling-houses. The portion that has been quayed has been formed to a level of 4 ft. above high-water mark. All the gates, bridges, warping capstans, and other machinery are intended to be worked by hydraulic power. The contract, according to its terms, ought to be completed on Sept. 1.



THE SENSES: TASTING.—(DRAWN BY MISS ADELAIDE CLAXTON.)

OPENING OF THE FRENCH SESSION.

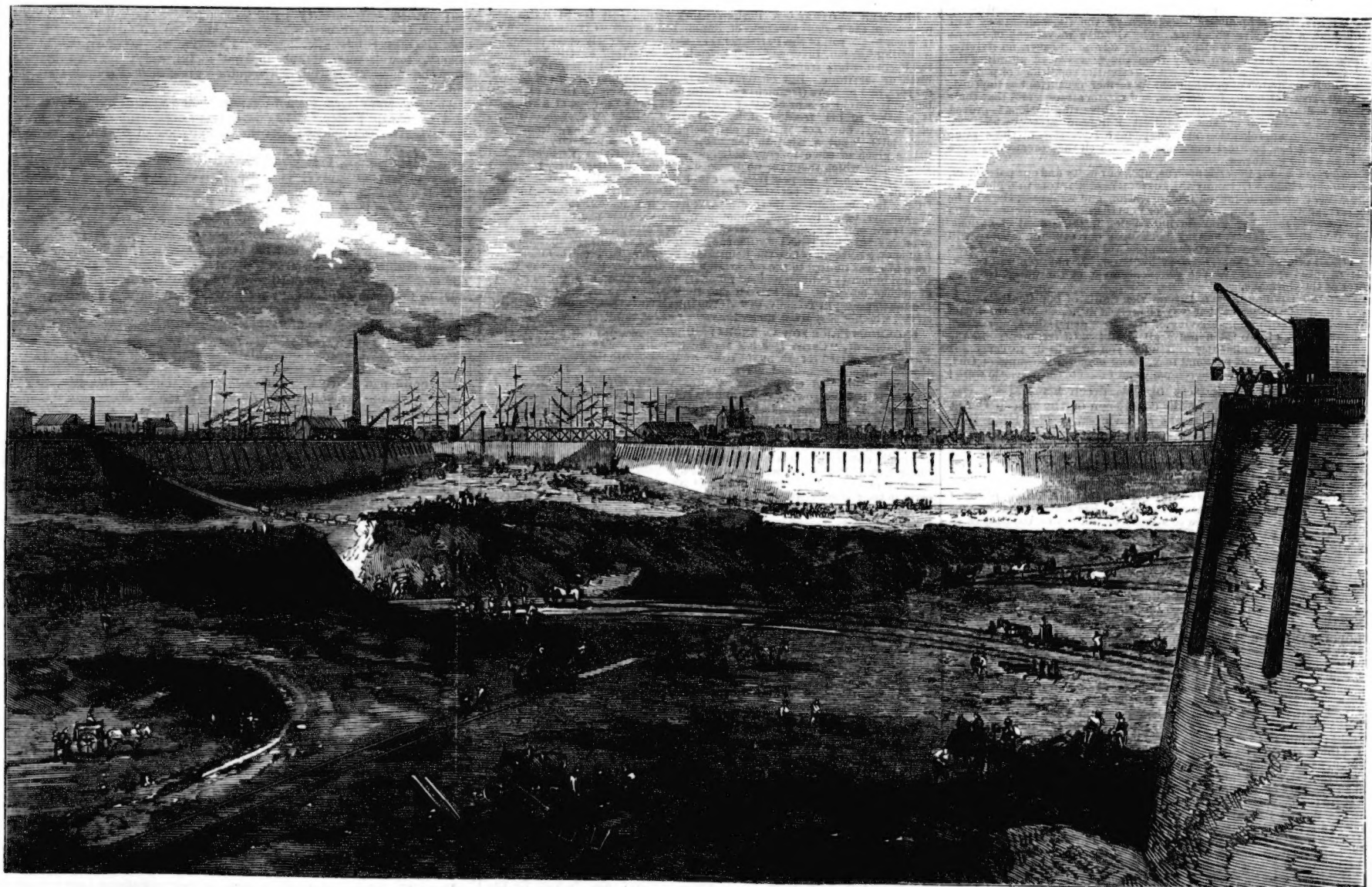
THE opening of the Session in the French Chambers, which took place on Feb. 14, has inaugurated some considerable changes in the mode of conducting the business of the Legislative Assembly. The ceremony itself was conducted by the Emperor in the Salle des États of the new Louvre, their Majesties having proceeded in state carriages through the Place de Carrousel.

After the speech of the Emperor the oath was administered to the members of the Legislative body who had been nominated since last Session; and, that act having been gone through, the Minister declared that the new Session was opened, and requested the

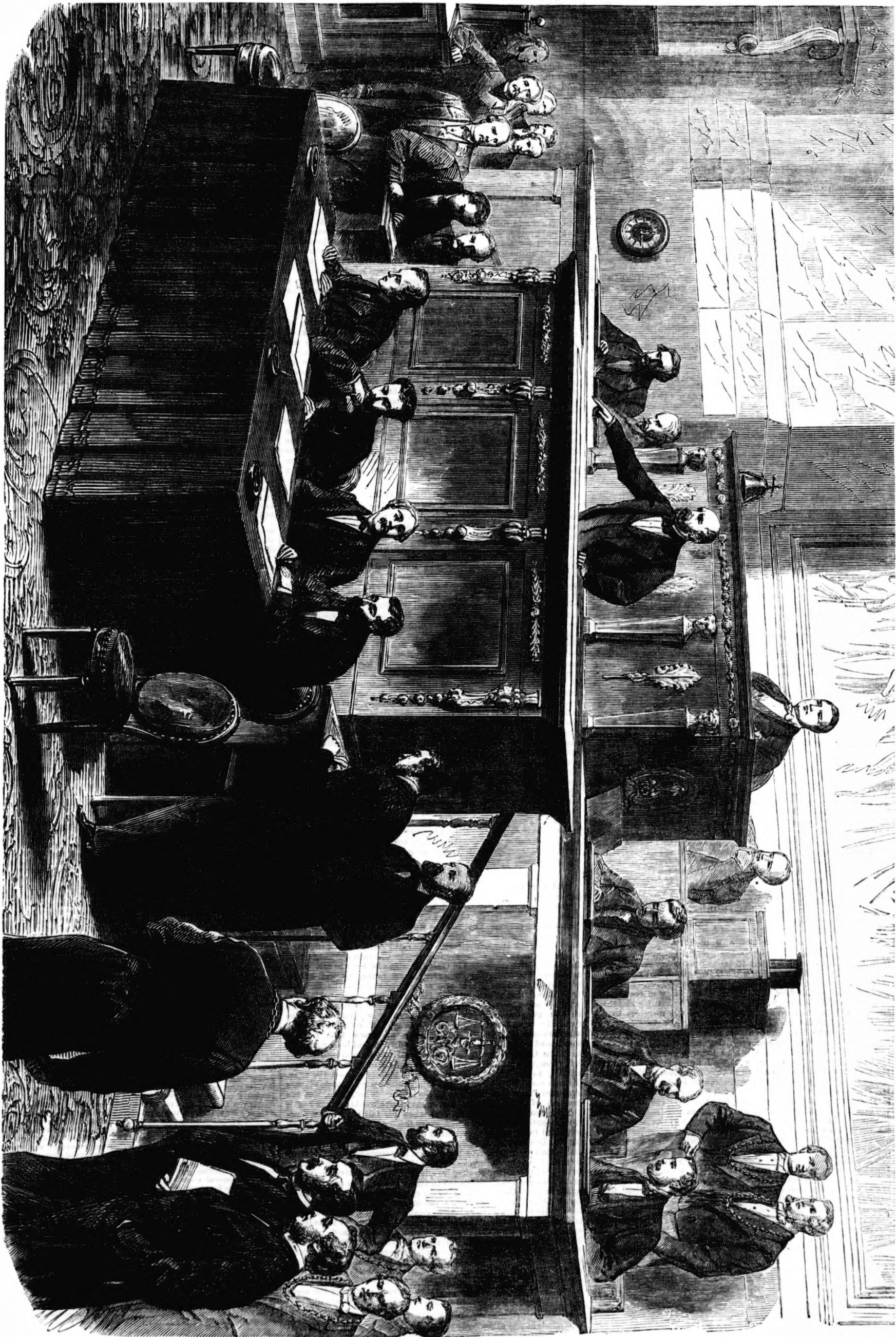
members of the two Chambers to assemble next day for the dispatch of business. Our Engraving represents the meeting of the Corps Législatif; and the peculiar feature of the assembly was the renewal of the institution of the tribune, from which speakers now address the Chamber instead of remaining in their places. There is something very remarkable to Englishmen in the practice of mounting a rostrum to address an audience where more than one speaker is to take part in the proceedings. All our public meetings are conducted on the principle of equality amongst the orators, and even in the House of Commons the place occupied by the Speaker is only distinguished for the sake of convenience. It

must be remembered, however, that the French representatives are not debaters (there are few Frenchmen who have a talent for debate); they are declaimers; and, as it would be dangerous for most of the members to trust themselves to declaim on the spur of the moment, they generally prepare their orations.

Our Illustration represents the scene in the Chamber at its opening, during the sitting of Feb. 16. The presidential chair is occupied by M. Walewski. On his left sits M. Valette, secretary to the Legislative Corps; on the right are the secretarial deputies; at the foot of the tribune are the reporters, and right and left the shorthand-writers. The deputy speaking from the tribune is M. Glais-Bizoin.



EXCAVATION FOR NEW DOCKS IN THE ISLE OF DOGS.



THE FRENCH CORPS LEGISLATIF: RE-ESTABLISHMENT OF THE TRIBUNE.

INNER LIFE OF THE HOUSE OF COMMONS.—NO. 294.

LAWYERS' ORATORY.

THE lovers of true eloquence who were in the House on Friday night last week were fortunate, for on that night one of the most accomplished speakers in Parliament delivered one of his finest orations—perhaps the greatest Parliamentary speech that he ever delivered. Sir Roundell Palmer is not one of our most attractive speakers. By which we mean he does not attract as some do. Strangers do not come down in crowds to hear him, as they do to listen to Gladstone, Bright, Disraeli, and a few others. The reason is this. Sir Roundell is a lawyer, and he does not often speak except on strictly legal matters, and legal discussions are generally very dry and repulsive to all but lawyers, civilians specially interested in the matter in hand, and a select few who delight in good speaking, whatever may be the subject. It is true Sir Roundell can more than any lawyer living, by the enchantment of his wonderful eloquence, make the driest bones live. He often brings to mind the old proverb, "With labour and sauce you may make very good soup of the leg of a stool." But still the criticism of legal bills, however well it may be done, and however it may be irradiated by brilliant eloquence, is not to the public taste, and is, therefore, as we have said, not attractive. Sir Roundell sometimes engages in political contests; but in these he never shines: in these lawyers never do shine. Beautiful speaker as Sir Richard Bethell was in his own province, when he was put forward to defend his party he almost invariably failed to impress the House. The late Lord Advocate, the silver-tongued Moncreiff, on legal subjects was never surpassed, and scarcely ever paralleled, for eloquence and argumentative force; but as soon as he rose to make a political speech, if it were early in the evening, the House gradually thinned away; and if it were late, members began to buzz and chatter that the learned Lord was scarcely audible. Sir Hugh Cairns was considered by his party to be a great political gun, and perhaps he was the best political debater amongst the lawyers; but neither could he enchain the attention of the House as some of our civilians can. And lawyers in the House have rarely in our Parliamentary history been successful speakers on general subjects. Erskine, the greatest forensic orator of modern times, was in the House comparatively a failure. True, Brougham by his mighty eloquence could on any subject speak with wonderful effect; but then he was as much a politician as a lawyer, and perhaps more; and, moreover, exceptionally a universal genius. The failure of speakers of lawyers off their beat is not surprising. Trained in the law courts to address learned Judges, to encounter sharp and keen opponents, and to discuss minute points of law and legal subtleties, they are too augmentative, too subtle; in short, as an art-critic would say, they want breadth; and, moreover, being advocates, they have the reputation of insincerity, as all professional advocates more or less have, and this reputation is fatal to all effective speaking. "If you wish me to sympathise, you must show grief yourself," is good advice to a speaker as well as to an actor.

SIR ROUNDSELL PALMER.

On the night in question the subject on which Sir Roundell spoke was not a political question; but, then, neither was it strictly a legal question. Call it a hybrid, something between the two. He had not to criticise nor to defend against opponents a bill of his own, but to expose and denounce evils in our judicial arrangements, involving sore injustice to the people. To use the oft-quoted words of Junius, "It was not the cause of faction or of party, but the common interest of every man in Britain." And it was a subject exactly suited to bring out Sir Roundell's remarkable powers, requiring the knowledge of a practised lawyer to expose these evils, and the eloquence of an orator to denounce the wrongs which they inflicted; and, to our mind, he never spoke with so much eloquence, force, and effect. How clearly he exposed the evils which he condemned; how eloquently he condemned the evils which he exposed! The diction of Sir Roundell when he is up to the mark is perfect. Sometimes at the close of the Session when he is jaded by overwork, and when he is defending something in which he feels no interest, his style gets diffuse and loose; but when he is in full feather, as the phrase is, and is in earnest, it is braced up and condensed, and, of course, vastly more effective. On that Friday night he was clearly up to concert pitch, and for an hour or more discoursed to us most eloquent music. Of style we may here say that Gladstone is considered to be the greatest master in the House. But when Sir Roundell Palmer has the right subject to discuss and is in full vigour, he treads closely upon the heels of his illustrious friend; and the style of Sir Roundell is very much like that of Gladstone. It is copious, flowing, flexible, harmonious. Nor is this similitude the only one between these orators. There is something of similitude in the tones of their voices, the expression of their countenances, and the character of their minds. They are both religious men, with, perhaps, a dash of superstition in their religion; and they are both capable of mental growth. They both began life as Conservatives—though Sir Roundell never, perhaps, was so Conservative as Gladstone once was—and have both expanded into Liberalism. And now we leave Sir Roundell Palmer, merely glancing, as it is our duty to do, at what our knowing lobby-gossips say of this speech. "Ah, yes!" said one of these knowing ones, "fine speech—very fine speech; but you know what it all means. The Government want to get a lot more Judges, and, if they should succeed, they will have the patronage, don't you see? and, of course, Sir Roundell wants to put a stopper upon this scheme—that, whatever changes may take place, his party may get the patronage; for, under any circumstances, some patronage there must be." But is there any truth in this? We don't credit a word of it. We believe that Sir Roundell honestly wants a rearrangement of the courts of law.

PRINCES, PEERS, AND BISHOPS.

And now we come to Monday—the great, important night, big with the fate, as we thought it to be and as it yet may prove to have been, of the Reform scheme, the Government, and many other things. The night's proceedings, though, were not nearly so much prolonged as we all fancied they would be. It was the general opinion that the debate would stretch itself out till midnight at least; but it was all over in time to allow the members to get away to a late dinner. There was, of course, a vast crowd of members down to hear the revelation which the Chancellor of the Exchequer had to make; and peers, lay and clerical, were there in considerable force, all anxious to know what the mysterious Caucasian had in his wondrous bag. I never knew the clerical peers so interested in any question as they have been in this Reform business. Perhaps they fancy the Church is in danger, as it often is. Some say that it is now specially in danger from intestine foes: semi-Papists, on the one hand; Colenso and his "infidel crew" on the other. What if it should also be in danger from democracy without! In the old Reform days Earl Grey told the Bishops "to set their house in order." Has some warning spirit in a dream echoed again this terrible advice, that they watch this Reform movement so closely? Fear not, most reverend fathers! The Caucasian, be sure, will let in no fierce tide of democracy to overwhelm you. Whatever popular force he may let loose, rely upon it that he will balance and counteract it by an aristocratic power. The Prince of Wales was there, as he usually is on occasions like these. He used, when he first took to coming down to the House, to be received with extraordinary ceremony. Some Lord in Waiting or Court Gold Stick accompanied him, the Serjeant-at-Arms came out to meet him and usher him to his place. But these tiresome ceremonials annoyed the Prince, and he quietly put a stop to them, and now he walks down unattended and passes into the House unnoticed, like any other man. Sometimes, indeed, he will stop in the division-lobby as he passes through and chat with some noble member—the Marquis of Hartington, it may be, or the young Duke of Hamilton—the other members clustering in the lobby and gossiping near him, all seemingly unconscious that Royalty is near them. This is well. It is a familiarity which will not breed contempt, but popularity.

RUNNING THE GAUNTLET.

Outside the House, there was the usual crowd in the lobby; the

usual struggle to get into the House, and the usual disappointment; and our stalwart A. I.'s had the usual difficulty in keeping a clear gangway for the members to proceed to their duties. In Westminster Hall, through which most of the members pass, there was a lane formed, hedged on each side by a double and treble row of idlers and enthusiastic politicians, come down to cheer their political friends and hiss their political foes, if they could but know them. But most of the members were utterly unknown, and went in without cheer or hiss; whilst most of the leaders avoided these enthusiastic politicians, not coveting cheers nor liking to encounter hisses and groans. Some of our prominent members, though, passed through the lane, and some were cheered and some were hissed, but a good many were not recognised. Elcho, for example, ought to be well known; for his picture is in every photographer's window; but he was not known here, and got neither cheers nor groans. Professor Fawcett had an ovation: his blindness marks him. Earl Russell, too, was cheered. Robert Lowe ventured to run the gauntlet, and was cheered and hissed, and so may consider the account squared. We suspect, though, that, if the truth could be known, there was a balance of hisses to be carried over. By the side of the Great Hall door, up in the corner, there is another members' entrance, through which carriages may roll into a courtyard. Gladstone, in his carriage, went into the courtyard; and Disraeli, in his brougham, passed also that way. The crowd caught a sight of Gladstone before he got into Palace-yard; and straightway the cordon of policemen was broken, and the multitude followed him and cheered lustily. Anything but an ovation was prepared for Disraeli; but his horses were too swift for the crowd, and before he was fully recognised he was safe within the inclosure. The people made a rush at the gateway, but a strong body of police was there—not strong enough, though, to keep such a crowd back if it had been minded to force its way. But, after all that may have been said of a London crowd, it rarely fails to reverence, as if by instinct, the representatives of law and order.

INSIDE THE HOUSE.

Whilst the formal business inside the House—the reading of private bills, the moving of returns, the asking of questions, &c.—was going on, the members were very restless, and there was pervading the House a ceaseless hum, as of bees at swarming-time, except when solemn Mr. Newdegate rose to put a question touching the appearance at a Lord Mayor's dinner in Dublin of Dr. Cullen in his dreadful Cardinal's robes, red hat and stockings, &c. A loud cry of "Hear, hear!" ran through the ranks, and then deep silence for a time; but only for a time, and even that was broken by laughter and ironic cheers. Mr. Disraeli having disposed of this question by a short speech in his best manner, which one would hope allayed Mr. Newdegate's fears, the buzzing began again, but did not last long. In five minutes the Clerk read out the order of the day for going into Committee of the whole House on the resolutions, &c.; and when these words were heard all buzzing ceased, a rustling was heard, and then came a silence deep as death.

DISRAELI IN SHOAL WATER.

Amidst this profound silence the Chancellor of the Exchequer rose, and, of course, was received with cheers from the Conservative ranks behind him. But they were not enthusiastic cheers, but constrained and faltering. Mr. Disraeli, however, was more at ease than he was a week ago, and no wonder. Then he had to make a show of saying much without really saying anything, and that, as everybody who has tried it knows, is uphill work. We never knew him so slow, so wary, so wearisome as he was then. "Dizzy did not get on well to-night," said a member to an old Admiral as they passed out. "Get on!" was the reply. "No; how could he, when he was all the while in shoal water?" And this was a capital description. But though he spoke with more freedom on Monday, he was clearly not himself. He tacked about, and at times hesitated, as if he were still not clear of the shallows. However that may be, he was not himself. He was cautious, apologetic, and even deprecatory, as if he saw that he must rely more upon the conciliation of his foes than upon the strength of his friends. If he could have had a swinging majority at his back, how different would have been his tone! And then he was not encouraged by the cheers of his friends; on the contrary, at times, for the most part, they looked blank, uneasy, and mistrustful; rather inclined to cry "Oh, oh!" than "Hear, hear!" and only restrained by their party allegiance from expressing disapprobation. And, in truth, theirs is an uncomfortable position—to be called upon to support a reform bill, whilst nine out of ten of them cordially hate reform and think it entirely unnecessary. There was a good deal of excitement on the Opposition benches as the Chancellor of the Exchequer unfolded his plan. Now and then there was a deep, guttural "Oh!" and occasionally a burst of laughter, especially when he announced that he should drop this resolution and modify that. Perhaps the Liberals remembered the taunt with which Disraeli chaffed Gladstone last year, when he told the leader of the Liberals "That it is always dangerous to change your front in the face of the enemy;" but the Chancellor of the Exchequer did not notice either groans or laughter; but, keeping his temper well in hand, went through his duty, and at length, having spoken about an hour, quietly sat down.

ROBERT LOWE.

And then up jumped Mr. Lowe. But stop; let us, before we proceed further, pay a tribute to the Chancellor of the Exchequer which is clearly his due. And here it is. Under circumstances more difficult and trying than we ever knew a Minister of the Crown placed in, he performed his task, as we think, with admirable skill. Mr. Lowe's appearance at once quelled the Conservative cheering and hushed the House to silence. The right honourable gentleman before the business of the evening began was seen chatting under the gallery with the Bishop of Oxford; where he went to afterwards few knew, for, on looking along the Liberal ranks, his well-known white head could not be seen, and some supposed that he had left the House. But it appears that, failing to get a seat in his usual place, or any place on the benches, he had dropped down on to a step in the gangway, and was hidden from view; but he spoke from the front bench below the gangway. Of course everybody was anxious to hear Mr. Lowe. We all knew that he had segregated himself from the Liberal fold. It had been rumoured that the Conservative leaders had offered to take him into theirs; but, though he had left the Liberal flock, he had no notion of submitting to the Conservative brand, and bluntly refused the offer. Then it was said he had left the Adullamite party, of which it was supposed at one time he was to be the chief. What, then, was the position of this gentleman, and what course would he take? All this he was about to reveal; and when his tall form, like a pine-tree capped with snow, appeared, every tongue was silent, every neck stretched forth, and every eye fixed upon the man. And no wonder, for Mr. Lowe is a remarkable man; and whenever a Liberal Government shall again be formed, it is thought that some arrangement must be made to secure his services. What, then, will he do? what will he say? Last year he was an effective ally of the Conservative party. He, more than any man, contributed to throw the Liberals out. Will he again help the Conservatives? again cause his former friends to look blank dismay, and again evoke rapturous cheers from his former foes? He did not leave us long in doubt. The blast of his trumpet told us at once where he stood, and then he proceeded to deliver a speech which for acute criticism, caustic severity, and pungent, biting, if not brilliant, wit—for the use, indeed, of every oratorical weapon that can be employed to punish an antagonist—has scarcely ever been equalled. For nearly an hour the Opposition side was in a roar of laughter and cheers. The Conservative chiefs looked aghast, as well they might, when they remembered what services this man had rendered them last year. We can fancy Disraeli muttering the words of the Roman Emperor, "Et tu, Brute? Then fall, Caesar!"

MR. BRIGHT.

Mr. Bright was exceedingly hoarse, as he is, unhappily, liable to be; but he, too, was in one of his happiest veins, and again he succeeded

in launching a nickname which will stick. The direct-tax qualification is "the ratcatcher's franchise." "Every ratcatcher who keeps four dogs," said Mr. Bright, "will have a vote." By-the-way, we may as well explain this. The present tax on dogs is 12s. Two dogs, therefore, under the present law, would give a vote if Disraeli's scheme were to become law, as that provides that everybody who pays 20s. in direct taxation is to be enfranchised; but Mr. Hunt has introduced a bill which is to repeal this tax and to substitute a 5s. license. And now we must finish. Laing spoke after Bright, as did Gladstone and some half dozen more, and all against the resolutions. On the other side no one out of office opened his lips, and every member, as he left, said that the resolutions were doomed.

The partridge may the falcon mock
If that slight palfrey stand the shock.

Imperial Parliament.

FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 22.
HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of DERBY moved an address of congratulation to her Majesty on the Princess of Wales having given birth to a Prince, and to assure her of the deep interest felt by the House in all that concerned the domestic happiness of her Majesty and her family.—The motion was seconded by Earl RUSSELL, and agreed to.

The Marquis of CLANRICARDE drew attention to the subject of land tenure in Ireland, and laid upon the table a bill relating thereto identical with his measure of last year, which, after a short debate, was read a first time.

The Confederation of North American Provinces Bill passed through Committee.

The Earl of DERBY said he had to ask the House to meet next day for the purpose of reading the Habeas Corpus Suspension Act (Ireland) Continuance Bill a first time, with the view of passing it through its remaining stages on Monday.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

BIRTH OF THE INFANT PRINCESS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER proposed an address to the Queen congratulating her Majesty on the Princess of Wales having happily given birth to a Princess, and assuring her Majesty of the devoted loyalty and attachment of the House to her Majesty's person and family.

Mr. GLADSTONE seconded the motion, which was agreed to *nem. con.*

THE APPELLATE JURISDICTIONS.

Sir R. PALMER called attention to the unsatisfactory state of the different appellate jurisdictions in this country. With a view to remedy the defects, which he described with great minuteness, the hon. and learned gentleman proposed to abolish the exclusive jurisdiction of the Courts of Queen's Bench and Exchequer and to make the three common-law courts branches of one great court; three Judges to constitute a full Court. He would dispense with the attendance of Judges at chambers, and transfer all minor business to chief clerks or masters; and where one court was overburdened with causes and another insufficiently supplied, a portion of the business of the former might be advantageously handed over to the latter. Having made other suggestions of a minor character, the hon. and learned gentleman proceeded to consider the next portion of the subject—namely, the appellate jurisdiction; and here he laid down the two principles that not more than one appeal should be allowed in any case decided by the superior courts, and that there should be but one court of appeal for both equity and common law. To this court he would transfer the appellate jurisdiction of the House of Lords, and the legal functions now performed by that branch of the Legislature should cease and determine as soon as a more effectual tribunal had been established in its stead.

The ATTORNEY-GENERAL reviewed the various suggestions of the hon. and learned member, and denied that they would effect any saving of judicial power that was worthy of consideration, or that the administration of justice would be promoted or improved thereby.

THE PARIS EXHIBITION.

Mr. OSBORNE revived the subject of the vote for the Paris Exhibition by calling on the Secretary of the Treasury for further explanations; and, running through the items one by one, he denounced the majority of them, in his usual effective and amusing style, as shamefully extravagant.

Mr. H. A. BRUCE, as the member of the late Government who was responsible for the first estimate, explained that the large expenditure was necessitated by the extraordinary requirements of the French Commission, and that if we had not yielded to these we must have withdrawn from the Exhibition.

Some discussion followed, after which Mr. OSBORNE gave notice that he should move the House to prohibit the exhibition by the Government departments of implements of war.

SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 23.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The House of Lords met on Saturday at one o'clock, when the Habeas Corpus Suspension Continuance (Ireland) Bill was, on the motion of the Earl of Derby, read a first time.

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 25.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The Earl of DERBY moved the second reading of the bill for the suspension of the Habeas Corpus Act in Ireland.

Earl RUSSELL and the Earl of KIMBERLEY having expressed their concurrence in the measure, and denounced the Fenian movement, the bill was read a second time; and, the standing orders having been suspended, it was read a third time and passed.

Lord ST. LEONARDS called attention to the employment of volunteers in case of internal disturbance.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM RESOLUTIONS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER made the promised explanation of his Reform resolutions, commencing by an assurance that the object of the Government was to improve and complete the Reform Act—the most successful political experiment of our time, which had transferred the government of this country from a "heartless oligarchy" to the middle classes, to the great benefit of the country. But that Act had this default, that it disregarded the rights of the working classes, and it was the desire of the Government to restore the rights which the labouring classes had lost in 1832. After a brief defence of the course of procedure by resolutions, chiefly by the necessity of coming to some understanding on principles before proceeding to details, Mr. Disraeli proceeded to unfold the Government scheme, commencing with the franchise. It was proposed to create four new franchises, applicable both to boroughs and counties—an education franchise, somewhat wider than that proposed in 1859; a £30 savings bank franchise, requiring a twelvemonth's retention of the deposit; the possession of funded property to the amount of £50, and the payment of 20s. a year of direct taxes. The first would create 10,000 new voters in boroughs and 15,000 in counties; the second, 35,000 in towns and 25,000 in counties; the third, 7000 in towns and 32,000 in counties; and the last, 30,000 in towns and 52,000 in counties: in all, 82,000 voters added to the borough and 124,000 to the county constituencies, derived from lateral extension; and these numbers, Mr. Disraeli added, were not merely of persons qualified, but of those who would be likely to come to the poll. Before proceeding to touch on the reduction of the present franchises, Mr. Disraeli intimated that the Government did not intend to insist on the "plurality of votes" resolution, explaining that it had been misunderstood, and that its intention was simply that a person enjoying any of the four new franchises should have one vote in addition to his occupation vote. The Government would be ready to propose the reduction of the franchise to £6 rating in boroughs and £30 rating in counties, by which 130,000 practical voters would be added to borough and 52,500 to the county constituencies; in all, over 400,000 new voters would be created. As a remedy for electoral bribery and corruption, the Government would propose, on a petition being presented from a town after an election, to send down two assessors to conduct a local inquiry, with an appeal to a Select Committee (the costs in both cases to be guaranteed by the complainants and the appellant); and when a successful candidate was convicted of bribery the unsuccessful candidate, if he were proved pure, should be seated in his place. These proposals might be embodied in a separate bill. Passing to the redistribution portion of his scheme, Mr. Disraeli announced, eliciting loud and general cheering, that the Government would propose to disfranchise the four boroughs which had been recently convicted of bribery. This would place seven seats at their disposal, and by appealing to the patriotism of small boroughs with populations under 7000 (which he declined to specify, though repeatedly urged by loud cries of "Name!" to part with their superfluous representation, they would obtain twenty-three more. These thirty seats would be disposed of in this way:—Fourteen to new boroughs—viz., Hartlepool, Darlington, Burnley, Stalybridge, St. Helen's, Dewsbury, Barnsley, Middlesex, Croydon, Gravesend, Torquay, a town in the "Black Country," which he could not give new name, and the division of the Tower Hamlets into two districts, with two members each; fifteen to counties, by the division of North Lancashire, North Lincolnshire, West Kent, East Surrey, Middlesex, South Staffordshire, South Devon, and South Lancashire (which, having now three, would only have an additional member). The thirtieth seat would be given to the London University. Over the last resolution Mr. Disraeli passed very briefly, promising that the bill would comprise carefully drawn and practical clauses for improving county registration, assimilating it to the borough system, and for diminishing the expenses of county elections by an divisions of districts and multiplication of polling places; and on the last resolution he pointed out that, as it was

to be a Royal and not a Parliamentary Commission, it might commence its labours at once, and no delay need occur. Having spoken for little more than an hour, Mr. Disraeli concluded by claiming for the bill which he had sketched out the credit of being a sincere and practical measure, which, if candidly received, might terminate the controversy.

Mr. LOWE (who for the first time spoke from the front Opposition bench below the gangway) took advantage of what he termed his position as a political "outcast" seriously to warn the House of the dangerous position in which it would be placed by the course recommended by the Government. He professed himself unable to see what the resolutions had to do with Mr. Disraeli's speech, or what use they would serve after that speech. They were not precise and definite, like the Indian resolutions. Referring to the rumours which have been current as to the frequent changes in the opinions of the Cabinet during the last fortnight, he asserted, amid general laughter, that, however wide the changes may have been, the resolutions would embrace them all; they were not a framework, but an elastic band, which would hold anything. The primary object of this mode of procedure possibly was to bind over the House to keep the peace towards the Government, to secure them against overthrow by an abstract resolution, by anticipating all the abstract propositions which could be framed on the subject, or, as he happily described it, to set the mark of Cain upon them, that no one might kill them; but the security was a very poor one, for thirteen resolutions would not exhaust the armoury which might be turned against them. It was not the business of the House, he argued, by relaxing the usual punishment of failure, to tempt a Government to rush upon a task in which so many had failed; it was their duty to hold the Government strictly to their responsibility, and not to go into Committee until there was a full understanding as to what the Government was responsible for. He begged the House not to permit the Constitution to be thrown into the alembic of a Committee, where every member would be at liberty to propose what amendments he pleased; and he pressed the Government to withdraw the resolutions and to introduce a bill at once. Mr. Lowe touched next on his own personal position on this question, professing himself desirous—as he had not succeeded in bringing anybody over to his views, and as a reform bill was inevitable—of helping to pass the best bill possible, and explained his views on the extension of the franchise, condemning fancy franchises, complaining of the omission of lodger franchisees, and maintaining that the proper foundation of the franchise ought to be the discharge of State burdens. There was no necessity for legislating in a spirit of panic or precipitation, for the meetings of the autumn had failed to take hold of the public mind, and, in the metropolis at least, had demonstrated nothing but the impotence and vanity of their authors.

Mr. BRIGHT joined in pressing the Government to abandon their proposed course, which was reproached by everyone off the Treasury bench. After Mr. Disraeli's speech, he maintained the resolutions were out of place; they would not only waste time, but would throw the subject into chaos, would lower the character of the Executive Government, and would "Americanise" the House of Commons. He discussed the chief features of Mr. Disraeli's sketch bill, asserting that £6 rating would not be equal to £8 rental, that the calculations as to the fancy franchisees were of no value; and, in alluding to Mr. Disraeli's argument that the House had last year decided on a rating franchise, he asked him why he had not accepted the decision of the Government on the county franchise. He rallied the Ministerialists, in a tone of bitter sarcasm, on their change of opinion; and in his peroration urged with great force and eloquence that, as it was pressure from outside which had induced this and the late Government to touch the question, Mr. Disraeli should be permitted by his party to make concessions which would put a stop to further discussion and agitation.

Mr. WALPOLE, after replying to some of Mr. Bright's sarcasms by a reference to the bill of 1859, which proved that the Conservatives were not new Reformers, asserted that the Government were not about to abdicate their responsibility, but that they would stand or fall by any resolution which they deemed vital to the Constitutional settlement of the question. He vindicated the procedure by resolutions as the best means of giving the widest scope to the discussion, and of eliciting every kind of suggestion which could be made for a settlement of the question.

Mr. LAING complained that the claims of Scotland to increased representation were passed over in the redistribution scheme, and expressed a strong belief that neither this part of the proposed bill nor the £6 franchise had anything of the character of finality, which he maintained to be indispensable in any attempt to deal with the question. It was useless to propose anything short of household rated suffrage, and this he should have preferred, even though qualified by enumeration or quality of voters.

Mr. GLADSTONE asked Mr. Disraeli on what basis he rested his calculations of the numbers to be admitted by his scheme, for to some of them he had listened with a little incredulity. The lateral franchisees would not touch the labouring classes at all; and, as the £6 rating franchise would not admit more than 100,000 voters, he contended that Mr. Disraeli's bill did not afford as favourable materials for a settlement as his bill of last year, which proposed to admit 200,000 of the working classes. He approved Mr. Disraeli's project for the prevention of bribery and corruption, and also the proposal to put it in a separate bill; and the same course might be taken with the proposals for improving county registration and diminishing expenses. On the mode of procedure he pointed to the concurrence of Mr. Lowe and Mr. Bright as a significant indication of the feeling of the House; but if the Government continued of opinion that resolutions were preferable to a bill, he would waive his objections, pressing upon them at the same time that, after Mr. Disraeli's speech, the resolutions ought to be altered so as to embody the Government plan. (This suggestion was met with loud cries of "Withdraw!" "Bill!" from the Opposition.) The very vagueness of the resolutions, he argued, must now be a source of serious embarrassment to the Government themselves. Illustrating his argument by reference to the resolutions on redistribution and predominance of classes, and assuming that no attempt would be made to proceed with the resolutions until Thursday, he suggested that the Government should use the interval in considering whether they would not withdraw, or at least modify, the resolutions.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER replied that some of the resolutions might now, perhaps, be unnecessary, and they would be withdrawn; others might be altered; but he declined to withdraw the whole, alleging that there were several on which it was desirable that the Government should have the opinion of the House. (Here again there were loud cries of "Withdraw!" "Bring in a bill!")

After some further conversation, in which Sir W. S. Maxwell complained of the omission of the claims of Scotland, Sir G. Grey asked that the returns on which Mr. Disraeli's calculations were based should be laid upon the table; and Mr. Warner expressed his regret that the proposed bill did not afford the prospect of a settlement, which was impossible without the consent of both sides of the House. The motion for going into Committee was withdrawn, and the further consideration of the subject adjourned until Thursday.

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY, 26.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The LORD CHANCELLOR moved the second reading of the Office of Judge in the Admiralty, Divorce, and Probate Courts Bill, the object of which is to combine the business of those courts, and restore to the Admiralty Court its jurisdiction over insurance, freights, charter parties, and other shipping matters. As it would be physically impossible for one Judge to transact all the business of the combined courts, it was proposed to appoint a chief Judge with two puisnes, who would have power to sit in each of the three courts as might be required. These Judges would also constitute the full Court of Divorce. The bill was read the second time.

The Confederation of the British North American Colonies Bill was read the third time and passed.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

WITHDRAWAL OF THE REFORM RESOLUTIONS.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER rose at the hour for commencing public business, and, alluding to the subject of Parliamentary Reform, observed that the Government had proposed to deal with it upon resolutions. In order to secure a fair and full discussion, he thought it right, however, to take the earliest opportunity of saying that, after considering what had occurred on the previous day, Ministers were of opinion that they would best promote the course of public business by withdrawing the resolutions, and at the earliest practicable opportunity proceeding by bill. It was impossible at that moment to fix a day. A reform bill was not like a road bill; at the same time he thought it possible that he might be in a position to introduce a bill by Thursday week.

Mr. GLADSTONE expressed his satisfaction at the course adopted, and promised to give the bill his best consideration.

Mr. BRIGHT suggested that the Government would act wisely to proceed with the franchise question alone at first.

Lord J. MANNERS intimated that Government were not disposed to adopt the advice offered by the hon. member for Birmingham, who had injured, rather than served, Earl Russell last year by similar counsel.

THE ARMY IN INDIA.

Major ANSON drew attention to the military system in India and the colonies, and moved the appointment of a Select Committee.

The subject gave rise to a discussion, in which Mr. O'Reilly, Major Dickson, Sir H. Rawlinson, Captain Vivian, and Mr. Laing took part.

General PEEL consented to the appointment of the Committee.

Lord CRANBOURNE suggested that the Committee should not content themselves with an oral investigation only, but should also address their inquiries to the highest authorities in India.

The Marquis of HARTINGTON dissented from the policy of employing native regiments as a substitute for British.

The motion, with a rider of Mr. O'Reilly, was put and agreed to.

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 27.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

OFFICES AND OATHS BILL.

Sir C. O'LOUGHLIN moved the second reading of the Offices and Oaths

Bill, and explained its object to be the removal of the disability imposed by the Catholic Emancipation Act of 1829, which prevented the office of Lord Lieutenant or Lord Chancellor being held by a Roman Catholic, also the removal of the prohibition by which Roman Catholic judges, lord mayors, or other municipal officers were prevented from attending their own places of worship in official robes.

Mr. BAGWELL gave his support, as an Irish Protestant, to the bill.

Mr. ROEBUCK rested his support of the measure on the broad Radical ground that all the subjects of the Queen had a right to be placed upon a footing of perfect equality in all matters, religious as well as civil.

Mr. NEWDEGATE moved, as an amendment, that the bill be read a second time that day six months. The Lord Lieutenant of Ireland was the direct representative of the Sovereign in that country, and in his absence the Lord Chancellor shared the responsibility of government. It would be in the last degree undesirable, therefore, that such offices should be held by any persons who might recognise the authority of a foreign Prince.

Lord NAAS could not agree to the proposition that the office of Viceroy should be thrown open to Roman Catholics, because it would be distasteful to the Protestant community; but, so far as the office of Lord Chancellor was concerned, the case was totally different. That official had no constitutional functions to discharge, any more than the Master of the Rolls, and he saw no reason why he might not be a Roman Catholic.

Mr. GLADSTONE, whilst congratulating the Chief Secretary on the liberal tone by which his speech was characterised, regretted that he had nevertheless placed such limits to his liberality. For his part, he saw no reason why a Roman Catholic should not attain the office of Lord Lieutenant while the law permitted a Roman Catholic to hold that of Home Secretary, who, in fact, was the master of the Lord Lieutenant.

Mr. CHATTERTON (Solicitor-General for Ireland) was not prepared to repeal the prohibition upon the office of Lord Lieutenant or Lord Chancellor being held by a Roman Catholic. He denied the proposition of Mr. Gladstone that the Lord Lieutenant was subordinate to the Secretary of State, and observed that, as under the Act of Settlement the Sovereign was necessarily a Protestant, so it was necessary that the Lord Lieutenant, who was her representative and was invested with sovereign powers, should be a Protestant also.

Mr. LAWSON supported the bill, being of opinion that the present prohibitions were equally unjust and impolitic.

The amendment was negatived by 195 to 93, and the bill was read the second time accordingly.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 28.

HOUSE OF LORDS.

The business before their Lordships was confined almost entirely to the presentation of petitions.

HOUSE OF COMMONS.

THE REFORM BILL.

Captain GRIDLEY gave notice that, if it were proposed wholly to disfranchise Lancaster and Great Yarmouth, he would move as an amendment that they should retain one member each, inasmuch as the number of unbrid electors in these boroughs greatly exceeded those who were bribed.

LIETENANT BRAND.

Mr. OSBORNE asked the First Lord of the Admiralty if he would lay upon the table of the House any subsequent correspondence between the Admiralty and Lieutenant Brand since that officer was placed on half pay? Lord H. LENOX, in the absence of the First Lord of the Admiralty, asked the hon. member to postpone his question.

Mr. BUXTON said Mr. Brand had written him an excellent letter of apology, which he would be happy to publish.

THE SCOTCH GAME LAWS.

Mr. FORDYCE asked the Secretary of State for the Home Department if it was the intention of Government to propose any amendment of the game laws in Scotland during this Session.

Mr. WALPOLE said the hon. member for Linlithgow had given notice of a bill on the subject, and until he had seen it he could give no information with reference to the matter.

EDUCATION.

Mr. CORRY presented a minute connected with the code of regulations of the Committee of Privy Council on Education, and made an explanatory statement. The right hon. gentleman, who was very imperfectly heard, was understood to say that the minute was meant to develop and not to neutralise the Revised Code, its objects being—first, to promote the establishment of schools in poor places; secondly, to provide certain classes to afford a higher education; and, thirdly, to provide for an efficient supply of pupil teachers.

After some discussion, the subject dropped.

THE BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION BILL.

On the motion of Mr. Adderley, the second reading of this bill was agreed to.

THE DUTY ON DOGS BILL.

The Duty on Dogs Bill passed through Committee.

THE REPRESENTATION OF THE PEOPLE.

The CHANCELLOR of the EXCHEQUER, in reply to Mr. Hibbert, said he hoped to be able to bring in the Reform Bill on Thursday next; but at present he could not state anything positively.

The Counsel to the Secretary of State for India Bill was read the second time.

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SATURDAY, MARCH 2, 1867.

THE REFORM QUESTION.

FOREIGN advocates of constitutional government watch with interest the proceedings of the British Parliament, and endeavour sometimes to explain them to their followers and to those whom they would convert to their own political creed. The proceedings in the House of Commons during the last week or two must be rather puzzling to them. In the first place, it is difficult to say who are the reformers, and who the anti-reformers; but on this subject it is very easy, indeed, to discourse. The Tories, after opposing Catholic Emancipation, brought in the bill for emancipating the Catholics; a Tory, or ex-Tory, after contending that it was absolutely necessary to maintain the Corn Laws, himself proposed their abolition. These and other similar instances of the ease with which our public men adapt their views to circumstances, when they cannot adapt circumstances to their views, are familiar to all who are in the habit of lecturing on the principles and working of the British Constitution.

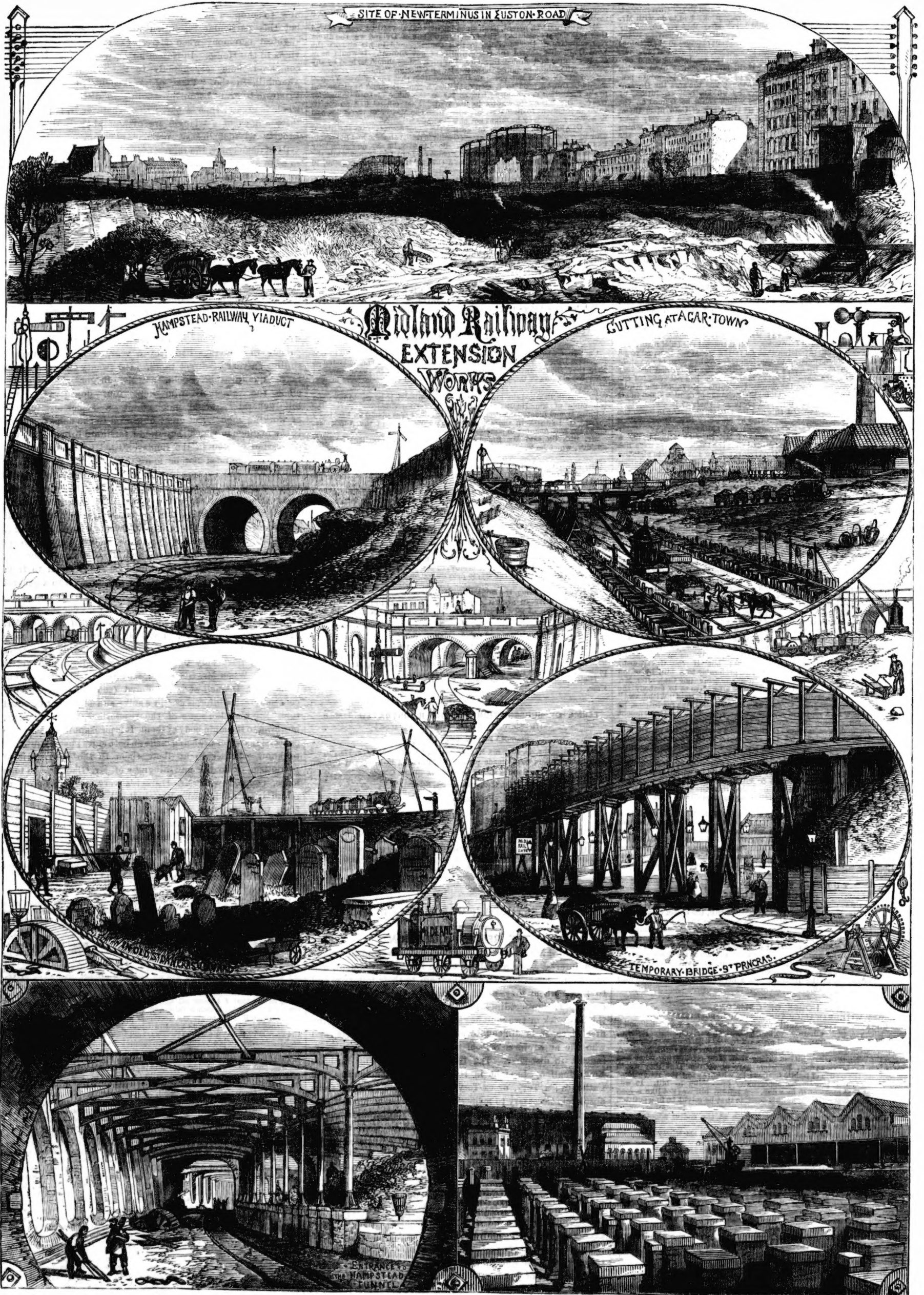
But, as we were saying, politicians cannot now be divided into those who are in favour of and those who are opposed to Reform. They are all Reformers—Conservatives, Liberal-Conservatives, Whigs, Adullamites, and Radicals. But if the position of parties in the House is puzzling, the conduct of those who are supposed at the present moment to hold the reins of power is still more perplexing. Mr. Disraeli's "resolutions" were introduced with all the magniloquence of which that naturally most brilliant but, by study, thoroughly artificial orator is capable. One would have thought, from

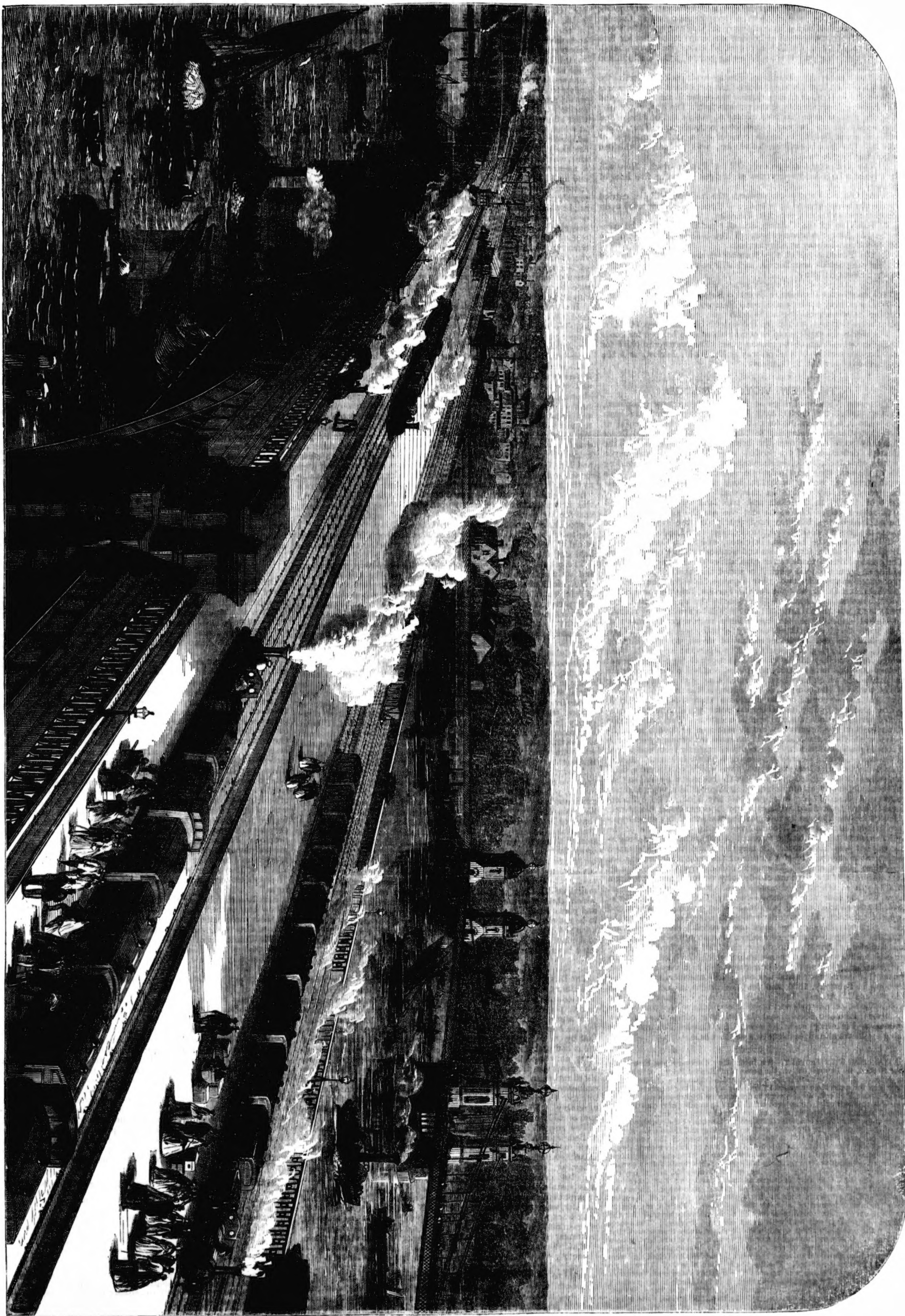
the emphatic earnestness with which he laid them before the House, that Mr. Disraeli had made some very important political discoveries, to the adoption of which he attached the highest importance. The resolution on the subject of plurality of votes was rather new—that is to say, it was new to propose such a thing to the House of Commons; but this particular resolution was taken back without the slightest ceremony when Mr. Disraeli came to explain his views to the House. In ridiculing their vagueness Mr. Lowe compared them very happily to the principles which Mr. Thornhill, in the "Vicar of Wakefield," required Moses Primrose to grant before proceeding to discussion—that the whole is greater than a part; that whatever is, is; and that three angles of a triangle are greater than a right angle. Liberty without license, popular government without the evils of democracy, the representation of all classes, but not so as to give the most numerous class an undue influence over all the others—these, indeed, are the great political desiderata that Mr. Disraeli, in common with Mr. Tupper and other platitudinarians, has in view, and which he held up to the admiration of the House of Commons in a formal oration.

Mr. Disraeli's statement in support of his resolutions was worth much more than the resolutions themselves. Of the four new qualifications for voting one, at least, is unobjectionable—that which gives electoral rights to clergymen in orders, members of learned bodies, holders of university degrees, certificated schoolmasters, and so on. Tacked on, however, to the educational franchise are franchises for those who have fifty pounds in the funds, or who have had thirty pounds in a savings bank for a year, or who pay twenty shillings a year in direct taxes. The twenty shillings direct taxes qualification would, as Mr. Bright observed, include the ratcatcher who kept four dogs; while the bill generally would not admit a sufficient number of working men. The great objection to the money clauses is the manner in which they would facilitate bribery. If the possession of £50 in the funds entitled a man to vote, the cost of a vote need not be more than £50, plus so much for the voter. The expense would, of course, be much less if voters were qualified temporarily through the funds, or a year in advance through the savings bank. Mr. Disraeli seems to have felt this inconvenience (or convenience) himself, and he accordingly proposes certain enactments against bribery. In regard to the occupation franchise, he seems at first to go a pound lower than Earl Russell and Mr. Gladstone; but it is maintained that a £6 rating would be really equal to from £7 to £10 rental, and that it would not be equal to a general rental of £8.

Again, there are few Liberals who will consider the occupation franchise in counties sufficiently lowered if fixed, as Mr. Disraeli proposes, at £20. But that, after all, matters very little; the Government being so accommodating that their opponents have only to make them a suggestion to get it adopted. When Mr. Gladstone said he "did not like resolutions," Mr. Disraeli at once offered (though, as one of our contemporaries informs us, "in a sulky and somewhat dejected tone") to abandon some of the resolutions, while adhering, however, to the main body of them. It is pleasant to see the little concessions which are being made on both sides; but it is difficult to know whether to attribute them to the pure spirit of patriotism or to the unwillingness of Mr. Gladstone to take office, coupled with Mr. Disraeli's very evident desire to retain it at all hazard. We shall all be glad if, no matter from what motive, a reform bill is at last carried through Parliament; but Mr. Disraeli has, all the same, laid himself open to the taunt he himself brought against Sir Robert Peel—that he "proposes as his own measures those very schemes to which, when in opposition, he always avowed himself a bitter and determined opponent."

MR. DISRAELI AND MR. GOLDWIN SMITH.—At the conclusion of a lecture on "John Pym and the Long Parliament," delivered at Guildford on Monday evening, Mr. Goldwin Smith thus referred to Mr. Disraeli's recent attack upon him:—"And now one word in self-defence. Mr. Disraeli, in the last Reform debate fell foul of me. The right hon. gentleman in that debate showed, by his attack upon me, that he still retained the power of calling names. He showed, by the miscellaneous epithets in which he indulged, that he had not exhausted the vocabulary which he exerted on Sir Robert Peel. The right hon. gentleman in that debate said that I had passed my life 'in a cloister.' This was an assertion uttered, like many of Mr. Disraeli's, at a venture, and, like most of his random assertions, simply untrue. He then told the House that 'I maligned all things and all men.' I beg to say that I honour all things and all men worthy of honour. I cannot honour that which is false and base; and standing, as Mr. Disraeli stood, where English power and greatness once stood, I notice one point of difference between him and those illustrious men. In the time of Hampden the leaders of the Commons were remarkable for their control over temper, and they never forgot themselves to indulge in silly personalities against people out of doors. I now come to the matter of the freeholders in Buckinghamshire. Rushworth says that 'in 1641 divers knights, squires, and other freeholders of Buckinghamshire, to the number of 4000, marched to London, each man with a copy of the protestation in his hat;' but I am told that if there were 4000 freeholders then, so there are now. Well, I find on the electoral roll of Buckinghamshire 4500 freeholders. But are these freeholders independent yeomen cultivating their own land? No. Investigation shows that these freeholders are composed of men holding freehold houses, cottages, and small pieces of land. Take any place within the Parliamentary limits of the county, and this statement would be borne out. I will instance Chalfont, a place of some historic note, and celebrated as the refuge of Mr. Disraeli's great rival in epic poetry, John Milton, when he was fleeing from the Tory mercies of the Restoration party. I find that in this place there are eleven occupiers of £50 value, thirty freeholders, one squire, one rector, and that the freeholders are holders of houses, cottages, and small pieces of land; out of them eighteen are not resident—rather small change, I think, for the Ironsides. I know but little of the county of Bucks, but it is notorious that except in the very north of England the yeomanry have almost ceased to exist. The estates of the small gentry have been bought up by the large proprietors. This is a great evil, as it makes the nation but tenants at will of its own soil. It is a sad fact that we are merging to an aggregation of the land into the hands of a few commercial and manufacturing millionaires. The laws of primogeniture and entail aggravate the evil. It is true that in the county of Bucks, owing to the exceptional circumstance of the Duke of Buckingham's estate being taken out of entail, there has been an addition of 400 freeholders to the electoral roll. I am willing to admit that these 500 are good change for a Duke. It is said these laws are necessary to keep estates together, but let good sense and frugality keep these together, not unjust laws. History proves that in proportion to the diminution of the yeomanry and the increase of the great proprietors, so have the constituent elements of our House of Commons diminished in strength and vigour."





THE NEW RAILWAY BRIDGE BETWEEN PINLICO AND BATTERSEA.

MIDLAND RAILWAY EXTENSION TO LONDON.

THESE works are to provide the very extensive system of the Midland Railway with a through line from Bedford to London. The course of the new railway, after leaving the main line at the present Bedford station, will pass through, or near to, the following towns—viz., Amphil, Luton, Harpenden, St. Albans, Radlett, Elstree, Edgware, and Hendon—and terminate in the Euston-road, near King's-cross. The total length will be about fifty miles. There will also be a short branch from the main line at Camden Town to join the Metropolitan Railway at King's-cross. The works for the first six miles out of London are being constructed for four lines of rails (except the Belsize tunnel, which will be for two lines).

Our Engraving portrays the following points in the works in and near London:—

1. The Site of the Terminus, Euston-road, looking North the Great Northern Hotel being shown on the right-hand side, the works of the Imperial Gas Company near the centre in the distance, and the St. Mary's Town School on the extreme left. The ground forming the site of the station has been cleared of houses and buildings, and the works for the railway foundations commenced. The station will be about 700 ft. in length, covered by a roof of one span of 240 ft. The booking-offices, hotel, &c., will be built at the end adjoining Euston-road.

2. The Temporary Bridge over Old St. Pancras-road. Here will be erected a large bridge or series of bridges, carrying five lines of rails.

3. At Old St. Pancras-churchyard, the railway will be carried across the burial-ground by a bridge of three spans, supported upon six cast-iron cylinders, each 9 ft. diameter.

4. The View of the Cutting, &c., at Agar Town, shows the excavation, &c., for the covered way of the branch line to join the Metropolitan Railway at King's-cross.

5. The Foundations of the Warehouses are for an extension of the existing goods' warehouses, and will be similar in construction to the present building.

6. The Hampstead Railway Viaduct, which has now been completed, crosses the Hampstead Junction Railway near Kentish Town.

7. The railway at the entrance to Hampstead Tunnel is in a deep cutting between retaining walls with iron cross struts. At this point there will be a station for Haverstock Hill and Gospel Oak.

The works are expected to be completed so as to be open for goods traffic in the autumn of the present year. The engineer in chief for the London section of the railway is Mr. W. H. Barlow, and the resident engineer Mr. F. Campion.

THE NEW VICTORIA BRIDGE.

THE new Victoria Bridge at Battersea, being now completed, having passed the Government inspection, and stood the tests applied to it, is now in use for traffic. During the testing, eight of the heaviest engines belonging to the London, Chatham, and Dover Company were driven over the bridge, with the results that the greatest deflection of the loaded rib—175 ft span—was seven eighths of an inch, while the simultaneous rise of the corresponding ribs of the next span was only one seventh of that amount. This great structure, which is 912 ft. long and 132 ft. wide—being the widest railway bridge in the world—consists of four river spans of 175 ft. in the clear and two land spans of 65 ft. and 70 ft. respectively. The spans and rise are the same as those of the original bridge, hitherto used jointly by the two bodies for which the present work has been undertaken—the London, Chatham, and Dover, and the London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Companies—but the foundations and ironwork are perfectly distinct. The great additions made to the capabilities of the two companies will be easily understood when it is stated that the bridge will hold two mixed-gauge and two narrow-gauge lines for the London, Chatham, and Dover, and one for the London, Brighton, and South Coast. Besides, the space of 33 ft 6 in. by the up and down platforms is at present so arranged that it will be available by a small additional expenditure for three more narrow-gauge lines; so that altogether, with those already existing on the old bridge, there will be ten separate means of access to the Victoria station, each having a distinct and independent approach. The bridge forms the key to the intricate network of high-level lines at Battersea, which is now nearly completed, and will doubtless obviate the difficulties which have now for some time impeded the working of the traffic of the companies by whom it has been built. The details of the structure are so numerous that it is impossible to notice them one by one, but there are some peculiar features connected with it which deserve special mention. For instance, the 32-arch ribs in the four spans are so arranged as to act as cantilevers, while the horizontal girder connected with them by spandrels is riveted up, and thus forms one continuous girder from end to end of the bridge, which, as has been stated, is 912 ft. in length. Again, the ribs about on cast-iron skewbacks, from which, on the piers, cast-iron standards are carried up to support the horizontal girder; so that the bridge is, in fact, an uninterrupted structure of iron, without intervention of masonry or brickwork of any kind. The cylinders beneath have been filled with concrete in cement and brickwork, loaded with pig iron, so as to equal the weight of the superstructure when occupied with locomotives—being in the case of the cylinders next the old bridge as much as 1200, while in the remaining ones it was 1000 tons. It may be added that the greatest settlement in any part of this section of the great structure was not more than $\frac{1}{8}$ ths of an inch. The works connected with the bridge on the south side of the river are chiefly lofty viaducts, and represent a total length of ten miles of double lines. It has been decided that there will be four new stations—namely, Grosvenor-road, York-road, Battersea-road, and Queen's-road—thus opening up a new and important district which will doubtless add a large contingent to the passengers travelling by the lines upon which these stations are situated. Altogether, this new medium of uniting the southern and south-western districts of London cannot fail to afford largely increased facilities for the immense traffic which the Victoria station daily receives. The work has been completed in a very short time, considering its magnitude and intricacy; the foundation-stone having been laid in February, 1865, and the Government inspection having taken place in August, 1866. The Chatham company's and the South-Western company's portions of the work have been constructed by Messrs. Peto and Betts; and the Brighton company's branches by Messrs. Pickering and Heywood; Sir Charles Fox and Sons being engineers and superintendents of the whole.

AN ANCIENT TILE FACTORY.—An interesting discovery has been made near Repton, in Derbyshire, on the grounds of Repton Priory, of which a correspondent sends the following particulars:—"The boys of the school have been for some time engaged in levelling a part of the inclosure known as the Upper Paddock, with a view to form a new cricket-ground. In the course of this work they uncovered a considerable number of encaustic tiles, some of which were laid in rows, others mixed with the soil. The spot where they were found is about a hundred yards south of the remains of the old priory church. As the work went on, the tiles and fragments of tiles became more abundant; and mingled with these a mass of the purest and strongest clay was found. As this bed of clay was gradually cleared away, brickwork was disclosed; and, by means of much judicious and patient labour, a very curious structure was laid open. This consists of two small chambers, side by side, about 5 ft. long and 2 ft. in width, and nearly the same in depth. One end of these chambers is open; the other end and the two outer sides are formed of strong stonework, backed by gravel, and lined with tiles in horizontal tiers. The wall between the chambers is formed of a single tier of tiles. Each compartment is arched over by six separate arches of tiles, evidently moulded for the purpose of fire-arch, and laid with great care and precision. The spaces between the arches are about equal in width to the arches themselves—that is, 5 inches. Of the twelve arches five only remain, the others having been broken down by the mass of clay, mingled with broken tiles, which had apparently been shoveled in when the work for which these chambers were designed had been completed. The floor is of plain blue tile. There is no doubt that this structure was used by the monks in the manufacture of encaustic tiles for the priory church, though it is difficult to say precisely how. The tiles which have been found are, almost without exception, either damaged or imperfectly executed—in fact, the refuse of the manufactory. But enough remains to show a surprising fertility of design and skill in execution."

THE LOUNGER AT THE CLUBS.

THERE is a partial lull in political speculation at the clubs. Most men are agreed that the Liberal party have acted a wise as well as a dignified part, and that the Government have adopted a prudent and discreet, if not very high-minded, course in withdrawing the Reform resolutions. In Liberal circles strong contrasts are drawn between the conduct of the Conservatives last year and that of the friends of Mr. Gladstone on that occasion. Conservatives, on the other hand, not being generally very enthusiastic about the success of their party's Reform schemes, and yet not caring to commit themselves to any positive adverse opinion, are disposed to follow the example of the melancholy Jacques—that is, affect to think of as many matters as other men, but to "thank God and say nothing." Neither reticence, however, nor discretion appears to be agreeable to Messrs. Beales, Potter, and Co. They are going to have another monster demonstration at Easter, as if that would prove anything either one way or another, save their vanity and folly. If they possessed any judgment, they would concentrate their efforts in holding district meetings of manageable dimensions, at which the state of affairs might be calmly discussed and petitions adopted praying for such improvements in the Government plan as are likely to meet with general acceptance from the Liberal party, and which there might be a possibility of getting embodied in a measure this Session. It is generally thought that a £5 borough and a £12 or £14 county qualification, with a lodger franchise substituted for, or added to, Mr. Disraeli's four new suffrages, together with a more extensive scheme of redistribution of seats, might obtain the concurrence of both sides of the House. This desirable consummation, however, is not likely to be forwarded by bragging, bouncing, and defying the police and the authorities, as seems to be the policy of the leaders of the League. Oh! how different are the Bealeses and Potters from the men who carried out to success the old Reform and the Anti Corn-law agitations! If the cause of liberty and of the people could be ruined by injudicious friends, some of the men who now pretend to speak in their name would be sure to accomplish the feat. It is a good job that it does not depend upon them, however.

Inventors are the real *genus irritabile*—at least, in these days. And it is quite according to the fitness of things that this should be so. We live in an iron, mechanical age, you know; and so it is proper that those who labour at inventing material contrivances should usurp the characteristics that distinguished the poets of a more ethereal epoch. How fiercely the war has raged of late years among these said inventors! And, as is also according to the fitness of things, the fight has been fiercest among the originators and improvers of warlike implements and materials. The Armstrongs and the Whitworths, the Lancasters and the Blakeleys, had a "go in" over the big guns. Then came originators and improvers of rifles in a phalanx literally "much too numerous to mention," and they peppered away with their small-arms. Mr. Clark combats, in the law courts, everybody he can think of, for everybody he deems his foe. Mr. Reed and Captain Coles fight the battle of "cannon versus broadside ships." And now Major Palliser and Mr. Nasmith are at it hammer and tongs as to who first suggested chilled projectiles; Mr. Whitworth having a shot in passing at the Major, apparently from inability to refrain from joining in a "free fight" whenever the trump of war sounds in his ears. All this is very exhilarating, if not specially edifying, to bystanders; and for my part—though it is rather wicked, perhaps—as I like a good, hearty, manly, stand-up and knock-down "scrimmage," I beg to add my "halloo!" to the turmoil, and to cry, like the heralds of old, "Fight on, gallant knights;" and "may the toughest hide hold longest out!"

The rehabilitation of historical characters of shady reputations, and of which Horace Walpole originally set the fashion in his "Historic Doubts respecting Richard III.," has made some progress of late years; and Nero, Henry VIII., Robespierre, and others have been presented to us under the most engaging aspects. Seeing a new version of the famous diamond-necklace romance announced, I thought the author had, in accordance with the prevailing fashion, set himself to prove that the notorious Countess de la Motte was a perfectly innocent and most unjustly-contemned individual. I am glad, however, to find that this is not the case; but that the researches of the author, Mr. Henry Vizetelly, which have brought to light many unpublished letters written by the chief actors in the necklace drama, and which have extended to all the official records of the proceedings before the Paris Parliament, tend to confirm the guilt of this pretended confidante of the Queen of France, and to exonerate Marie Antoinette from the slightest complicity in the miserable fraud. The work is enriched, I hear, by numerous extracts from recently-published, as well as from almost unknown, memoirs, written by persons living at the time, and who were friends or acquaintances of the parties implicated in the transaction. These extracts are said to be of the highest interest.

A lady, while having her hair dressed, inquired of the coiffeur the probable result of the late discussion in the journals as to chignons. "Well, you see, M'm," replied the cockney Figaro, "we don't care much about it. The stock o' chignons was just on sold hup. And now, you know, we must have something new. The swells won't shave, or let us shave 'em, so there's no call for razors or tuckell, and that makes bad for trade. We've 'ad a meeting of 'airdressers and settled it to bring out something new, so as ladies won't be able to dress their own 'air." I hear that the new feminine folly is to be a revival of the old "tower" head-dress of the last century, as seen in Sir Joshua's portraits and the embellishments of "Bell's British Drama." Readers learned in the magazine literature of that period will easily recall the manner in which these monstrosities were built upon cushions and floured and pomatumed into rigidity, and how a peculiar kind of pillow had to be provided for the unhappy wearers. I will not venture to dilate upon the descriptions of a certain process called "opening" which took place once a month, and, if the chronicles are to be believed, must have been a somewhat unsavoury operation.

THE THEATRICAL LOUNGER.

THE DRURY-LANE performance for the benefit of the children of the late Henry Webb proved a magnificent success as far as the receipts were concerned. That a selection from eight or nine different pieces, played in rapid succession by different performers, would form a programme which could really interest 2000 thousand people for five hours, was hardly to be expected; and I have no doubt but that by the end of the performance the majority of those who sat it out had pretty nearly had enough of it. But that it was an exceedingly curious and an exceedingly interesting performance no one who read the programme could doubt, although its interest consisted rather in the fact that the name of almost every artist of eminence in London was to be found in the bill, than from the intrinsic value of the performance as a means of passing five hours agreeably. I believe the net receipts amounted to the handsome sum of £562.

The revival of Planche's charming drama, "Lavater; or, Not a Bad Judge," at the OLYMPIC will probably prove to have been a judicious step on the part of the management, notwithstanding the proverbial non-success of resuscitated pieces. "Lavater," to my thinking, is all that a model two-act drama should be. Its interest is thoroughly legitimate; and, at the same time, it is sustained throughout two moderately-long acts without any apparent effort on the part of author or actors. The character of Lavater, as represented by Mr. Charles Mathews, is quite consistent with what we know of the great physiognomist; and his make-up, after an authentic portrait, is not the least interesting feature of the performance. Mr. Clayton played the important part of the villain, Mariani Mariano, with remarkable success. The earlier portions of his acting were characterised by a certain ungainliness which was probably the effect of mere nervousness, for it wore off as he warmed to the part; and his defiance of Lavater, towards the close of the act, was a really fine piece of acting, and one which secured him the compliment of a distinct call both on the first and on the second night of performance. I was sorry to see that the evil influence of the Adelphi management is already making itself evident at this

theatre. The officer's coat which Zug has to wear in the first act was a flunkey's; and the uniforms of the soldiers who take Lavater into custody are of the true Adelphi stamp. "Lavater" and the "Comical Countess," which followed it, were thoroughly successful. M. Ernest Schultze, of whose performance before a select literary audience, some three months since, I have already spoken, made his first appearance before a London public on Monday last, and with singular success. His performance is perfectly unique of its kind, and is as curious as it is unique. His entertainment is divided into four portions. In the first he gives a dozen different human types, without the aid of any accessories except two movable gaslights. In the second he shows the effect of different forms of beard upon the human countenance, the beards being simply shadows thrown by a magic-lantern upon his face. In the third he supplies the face to a number of grotesque portraits which lack that important feature; and in the fourth he dresses himself after the manner of a dozen different races of men, colouring his face with the assistance of the toned lenses of his magic-lantern. The performance was thoroughly appreciated by the audience, and will probably prove a very successful speculation.

The "Family Legend," which was revived by Mr. and Mrs. German Reed some time back, and has met with considerable success, will, I hear, be withdrawn shortly, when the Gallery of Illustration will be closed for a few days, in order to allow of preparations being made for the production of a new entertainment, written by Mr. T. W. Robertson, the popular author of "Society," "Ours," &c. Mrs. German Reed, who has been suffering from severe indisposition for the last few weeks, is now rapidly recovering, I hear, and will resume her professional labours in the forthcoming novelty.

At the ALHAMBRA a new ballet, called the "Merry Devil of Nurnberg," has just been produced, and is in all respects fully up to the mark of Alhambra ballet. That is saying as much as need—or can—be said in commendation.

1ST SURREY RIFLES.

Last Tuesday evening I had the pleasure of attending the performance of the 1st Surrey Rifles Amateur Dramatic Club, at the head-quarters, Brunswick-road, Camberwell. The programme consisted of Mr. Tom Taylor's comedietta, "Nine Points of the Law," and the popular Strand farce of "Turn Him Out," by J. T. Williams, Esq. In "Nine Points of the Law" the part of the captivating widow, Mrs. Smylie, was played with much spirit by Miss Austin; Mrs. Smylie's niece, Katie Mapleton, being impersonated by Miss Kate Rivers. To Sergeant Fourdriner much praise is due for his admirable rendering of the north country farmer, Joseph Ironsides. Private J. T. Macrone was the attorney, Cunningham; the parts of Rodomont Rollingstone, and John Britton being sustained respectively by Private E. C. Bignmore and Corporal Hastie. In the farce Sergeant Fourdriner again distinguished himself in the part of Mr. Nicodemus Nobbs, the pugacious toymen. This gentleman, in voice and manner, put me in mind of Mr. J. L. Toole. Miss Austin, as the maid of all work, was everything that could be desired. Sergeant Dubois was sufficiently bombastic as Mr. Mackintosh Moke; while the Mr. Eglantine Roseleaf of Sergeant T. C. Probert, and the Mrs. Mackintosh Moke of Miss Kate Rivers, were creditable performances. During the evening the band of the regiment, under the direction of Mr. J. Calcott, performed some well-selected pieces of music in a very effective manner. The hall was well filled by an appreciative audience. The performance concluded at a pleasantly early hour—about half-past ten o'clock—and was satisfactory in every particular.

MEETING OF THE LIBERAL PARTY.

ON Tuesday afternoon, at two o'clock, a meeting of the Liberal party was held at Mr. Gladstone's residence, in Carlton-gardens, to consider the Ministerial propositions with respect to Reform. Two hundred and eighty-nine members attended, besides several others who, unable to attend, sent letters of adhesion. As the meeting was too large to be contained in any room in the house, it assembled in the hall; and Mr. Gladstone addressed those present from the landing of the staircase.

Mr. Gladstone opened the proceedings by counselling moderation and fair play towards the Government, and at the same time impressed on the Liberal party the necessity of union, in order to bring about a satisfactory settlement of the Reform question. While disclaiming any wish for office, he condemned the resolutions of the Government, and proposed, as a first step, to set them aside by an amendment which he read and submitted to the meeting. He next proceeded to criticise the sketch of the Government measure as given by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, describing it as inadequate with respect to the franchise and the distribution of seats; but at the same time expressing the hope that, when the bill was actually introduced, it might be such that the Liberal party could, by harmonious action among themselves, modify it into a good measure. The amendment read by Mr. Gladstone, and of which he gave notice on the assembling of the House of Commons, was to this effect:—"That her Majesty's Government having informed the House of the principal provisions of the bill which they propose to introduce for the amendment of the representation of the people in Parliament, it is the opinion of the House that, under present circumstances, the discussion of the resolutions now before it must tend to delay the practical consideration of the question; and that it will be for the public advantage that the plan of her Majesty's Government should be submitted to the House in a definite form."

Earl Russell followed Mr. Gladstone, recommending the party to follow him as their leader in the House of Commons, and impressing on them the momentous nature of the crisis.

Lord Grosvenor spoke of the Government bill, as foreshadowed by the Chancellor of the Exchequer, as more unsatisfactory even than that of last Session. He mentioned with great praise the judicious way in which Mr. Gladstone had led the Opposition this Session, and declared in general terms his attachment to Liberal principles and the Liberal party; but gave no intimation as to the measure of Reform he would be inclined to support.

Mr. Bright followed, declaring his total want of confidence in the desire or ability of Lord Derby's Government to pass a sound measure of Reform. However much Mr. Gladstone might wish to deal gently with the Government, he must eventually adopt a sterner course. No good could come of supporting the proposed bill.

Mr. Clay, on the other hand, expressed his belief that the Government would be ready to yield to pressure, and that they would be willing to adopt a £5 rating franchise in boroughs and £10 in the counties; if so, the Liberal party ought to assist them.

After a little further discussion the meeting separated with the understanding that when the Ministerial proposals were embodied in a bill another meeting should be held to consider the course to be adopted. On the whole, great unanimity prevailed at the meeting, and those present went away highly approving the judicious manner in which Mr. Gladstone, without compromising the Liberal party, had advocated the necessity of assisting the Government by every means in its power to pass a substantial measure of Reform.

RIVAL VOCALISTS.—Mr. Sims Reeves, judging from his proceedings at a late concert in the Greenock Townhall, has a very different musical taste from that of the half-savage backwoodsman who, finding himself one night in a theatre of a border town, where the music was somewhat interrupted by the crying of a baby, shouted out, "Stop them fiddles and let the child cry; I haven't heard such music these ten years!" Mr. Reeves had got through a few lines of "The Message" when he stopped, and refused to proceed until a crying baby was removed. A portion of the audience desired the mother with the child to remain, and bided and hooted Mr. Reeves, who, with the pianist, retired from the platform. Mr. Airie, who had charge of the arrangements, induced the woman with the baby to withdraw, but, on the reappearance of Mr. Reeves, the audience would not hear him, and kept up a tremendous uproar. Other songsters were listened to, but Mr. Reeves was once more hissed from the platform, although towards the close of the proceedings he was allowed to sing two songs, and was even encored by the nice musical audience who had previously insisted on having the squalling accompaniment to Mr. Reeves's tenor.

SAYINGS AND DOINGS.

THE QUEEN visited the Princess of Wales on Wednesday, and afterwards held a Court at St. James's Palace. Her Majesty returned to Windsor in the evening.

THE PRINCESS OF WALES and her infant daughter are both progressing favourably, the pain of the rheumatic attack from which her Royal Highness was suffering having greatly abated.

THE FRIGATE GALATEA left Plymouth Sound on Tuesday morning for the Mediterranean, under the command of Captain his Royal Highness the Duke of Edinburgh. It is understood that his Royal Highness will serve out a three-years' commission in his new ship.

THE EMPRESS OF THE FRENCH at a recent ball wore a number of black diamonds and has set the fashion for these articles.

LORD DERBY, in addressing his followers on Monday, is reported to have declared that this was the last time he should attempt to deal with the question of Reform, and that if he failed now he should bid farewell to official life.

THE EMPEROR OF THE FRENCH has just subscribed 10,000*l.* towards a fund for aiding workmen in the departments to visit the Paris Exhibition.

LORD HENRY CHOLMONDELEY has sold his beautiful seat at Holly-hill, in Hants, for £20,000. His Lordship has been a most serious loser by the cattle plague, through having generously borne a large share of the losses of his tenantry from that malady.

DON CARLOS OF SPAIN was married to Princess Marguerite of Parma on the 4th ult., in the chapel of the Palace of Frohsdorf. The young Princess was led to the altar by the Count and Countess of Chambord. Accompanying the Spanish Prince were his mother, his brother, and the Duke and Duchess of Modena. The benediction was pronounced by the Nuncio of the Holy See in Austria, who also made a speech.

MR. EDWARD HARGITT has been elected an Associate of the Institute of Painters in Water Colours.

MR. A. H. SMITH-BARRY, an "Independent Liberal," has been elected for the county of Cork.

ST. MARY'S CHURCH, Kilburn, has been closed by the Bishop of London, on account of the incumbent's persistence in Ritualistic practices.

MISS THAI KERAY, it is said, is about to be married to Mr. Leslie Stephen, second son of the late Sir James Stephen.

A STEAMER has exploded on the Mississippi, killing sixty-five persons.

MR. MASSEY, it is said, intends to establish savings-banks throughout India, and lend out the deposits for the completion of public works of a reproductive character.

THE estimate for Greenwich Hospital and school for 1867-8 amounts to the sum of £128,635, being £2368 more than last year.

AN appeal to the House of Lords has been lodged in the case of Mrs. Ryves, who claims to be the Princess Olive of Cumberland.

THE LISTS for all the Courts to be held by the Queen at Buckingham Palace this season have now been completed.

A BLIND MAN, named Holland, the keeper of a lodging-house in Golden-lane, St. Luke's, London, had a quarrel with his wife, and, in striking at her, he hit their infant, which she held in her arms, and killed it on the spot.

THE EXHIBITION of the designs for the new courts of justice will now, and until further notice, be open to the public on Thursdays only, and to members of both Houses of Parliament and other special visitors on Saturdays only, the remaining days being required for the work of the Commission.

THE REFORM PROPOSITIONS OF THE GOVERNMENT are received with no favour in the country. Manchester has declared against them through the National Reform Union; and Leeds, on Tuesday, had a meeting, at which the greatest contempt for the propositions was expressed. Numerous other places have "pronounced" in a like sense.

C. O. I. R., initials of the title borne by Head Centre Stephens, is thus explained by his dupes:—"Cunning Old Irish Renegade, who Comes it Over Irish Republicans."

A FATAL DUEL has taken place at Vienna between Prince Bernard, of Solms, and Count Erhard Wedel. The Prince was shot through the chest, and died the morning after the duel.

THE trustees of the British Museum have at length resolved to recommend the extension of the institution by the purchase from the Duke of Bedford of the site now occupied by portions of Montague-street, Montague-place, Bedford-square, and Caroline-street.

THE LIFE-BOAT OF THE NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION stationed at New Brighton, near Liverpool, was the means, on Tuesday night last, during heavy weather, of saving the crew of fourteen men and a pilot from the barque Coquimbo, of Sunderland, bound from Liverpool to Alicante with coals. She had parted from three hawse-ropes while being towed out, and had then gone on the Forlan Flats sandbank. The life-boat behaved well, and the men appear to have great confidence in her. The cost of this life-boat, as well as that of the Holyhead boat, was the gift of Joseph Leather, Esq., of Fairfield Mount, near Liverpool, to the National Life-boat Institution.

THE REMAINS OF WILLIAM GREEN AND HIS WIFE, an old couple who had lived together for the long space of sixty-two years, were interred in one grave in Ashdon churchyard, near Chelmsford, on Sunday last, according to a wish expressed by them while in life. They died within two days of each other—the age of the husband being ninety-two, and that of his wife eighty-two years.

A MAN, giving the name of Kavanagh, was arrested on board the Hecla, just before she sailed for America, on Wednesday, and identified as Timothy Connell, one of the leaders of the Fenian raid in Kerry, and believed to be the person who shot the policeman and stole the despatches.

A WOMAN, named Jane McCarthy, whose husband is undergoing imprisonment for felony, has been receiving relief from the Shoreditch Union. She lived at 10, Shait-street, Kingsland-road. She had two children, a boy four years old and a girl two. On Tuesday the relieving officer went to visit her, and found her lying on the bed with her throat cut, while the little girl was by her side dead, her throat being cut from ear to ear. The woman was removed to the workhouse, and is not expected to live.

A LAD disappeared at Croyde, near Exeter, more than thirty years ago, and it was suspected that his stepfather had murdered him. The body, however, could not be found. The stepfather died some few years since. On Saturday week the skeleton of a boy, about the size of the one who disappeared, was dug up in the garden of the house where the stepfather lived.

A TEST of the dampness of rooms is suggested by Dr. Coffee. Place 500 grains of quicklime on a plate, leave it in the apartment; and if at the end of twenty-four hours this substance, which absorbs moisture very greedily, has not increased in weight by more than one fortieth or one fiftieth, the apartment may be considered fit to live in. In a damp or newly-built room it will increase in weight as much as five per cent.

A HOSTILE MEETING took place last week, at Venice, between Lieutenant-Colonel Manin and Professor Giuseppe Voilo. The duel was caused by a biography of Daniel Manin written by M. Voilo, in which the Colonel found accusations injurious to the memory of his father. The combatants fought with swords. The encounter was terminated by a wound received by M. Voilo in the right hand at the first assault; on which the seconds, on the surgeon's declaration, refused to allow the combat to proceed.

THE NAVY ESTIMATES.—The Navy Estimates show that the total sum required is £10,246,253, against £10,434,735 for last year, being an increase of £491,482. Deducting £408,976 for the conveyance of troops, the money asked for on account of the Navy proper is £10,220,277, of which £9,067,758 goes to the effective service. There is a decrease of £147,990 in the vote for the Storekeeper General of the Navy, while the vote for the Controller (£860,558) is £522,559 in excess of that of last year. Among the other increases are £34,394 in the vote for wages to seamen and marines, £6426 for victuals and clothing, £3397 for victualling yards; £5000 for new works, machinery, and repairs; and £62,500 for miscellaneous services.

THE ROYAL HUMANE SOCIETY.—At a meeting of this society, held for the purpose of considering the claims of those who saved life in the Regent's Park calamity, many of those who really distinguished themselves in that great disaster received some recognition of their services. Mr. Abel Thomas, a student of Regent's Park College, who, at the risk of his life, rescued a fellow-student from death; and Mr. Obe, a surgeon, who also rendered great services, were considered worthy of receiving the silver medal of the society, and their cases were recommended to the general court accordingly. Thanks, on vellum, were given to Dr. Edward Norton, who has already received a silver medal, for service rendered on the same occasion. The bronze medal was awarded to Mr. William Archer, the boat-keeper on the ornamental water of the lake, who rescued Mr. Denton, that gentleman's two children, and six other persons; to William Brightwills, for saving three persons; and to James Moore for saving five persons. Pecuniary rewards were also given to various persons for rescuing others who had not, in the majority of instances, come forward to thank those who rescued them. Thanks on parchment were awarded to Charles Whyte for saving James Macdonald; to William Mattocks, for saving Mr. Pickerton and five others; to G. C. Matthews, for saving George Pickerton (the "man with the pipe"); and to a butcher named Brock. A large number of other rewards were given to persons for saving life in different parts of the world, and under circumstances of great danger. The rewards given were to the full extent of the society's funds, which are not large, and have been much decreased by the many expenses caused by the late severe weather; expenses which, the secretary reported, had not been met by increased liberality on the part of the public, inasmuch as but little over £100 had been received this year. A vote of thanks to the chairman, Mr. E. Bedford, terminated the proceedings.

ROYAL NATIONAL LIFE-BOAT INSTITUTION.

THE annual meeting of the supporters of this institution was held, on Thursday afternoon, at the Mansion House—H. R. H. the Prince of Wales presiding. His Royal Highness, who was loudly cheered, said:—"My Lord Mayor, Ladies, and Gentlemen,—It affords me great pleasure to occupy the chair to-day on so interesting an occasion as the present (Cheers). Amongst the many benevolent and charitable institutions of this country, I think there are few that demand more of our sympathy and support than the Royal National Life-Boat Association (Cheers). An institution of this kind was peculiarly needed in a maritime country like this, and is different to other institutions, because, although lives were to be saved, lives had to be risked to accomplish that object (Cheers). I am happy to congratulate the society on its present state of efficiency (Cheers). 1000 lives had been saved during the course of the year. Life-boats have been given by many benevolent individuals—some of these as thanksgivings for lives which had been saved, and others in memory of those who were no more. I am happy to be able to say that other maritime countries have established life-boats, and have adopted this institution as their model (Cheers). In the name of the institution, I thank the Lord Mayor for his kindness in allowing us to hold our meeting in this hall. It is a fitting place to hold a meeting like this, as the institution is intimately connected with the city of London (Hear, hear). Nearly half a century ago the society originated from the city of London. Fifty years ago the then Duke of Northumberland became president of the institution, and I am happy to say my lamented father was one of its patrons, and took a lively interest in its success (Cheers). Mr. Lewis, the secretary, held his situation then, and it was mainly owing to his exertions that the institution had been able to attain its present state of efficiency (Cheers). 150 life-boats were afloat during the course of the last year, and ninety-three were now in existence, which had cost £1701, derived from the contributions of benevolent individuals (Cheers). I am happy that the society is in so prosperous a condition, and I appeal to you not to allow its efficiency to decay from want of support." His Royal Highness resumed his seat amid renewed cheers.

The secretary then read the report, from which it appeared that the institution, during the past twelve months, had continued to receive assistance from inland towns and private individuals, by the presentation of the entire cost of life-boats. A life-boat society had been founded in France, on the same principles as their own, which already possessed eleven life-boats, built by Messrs. Forrest, of Limehouse. That society had now seventeen life-boats completed, and eight others nearly so; and it would possess no less than thirty-two life-boat establishments. These boats were now being built in France, on the plan of their institution. Having adverted to the auspicious circumstance of the presidency at the meeting of his Royal Highness, who had accepted the position with that urbanity and kindness which distinguished him on all occasions, the report stated that the boats of the society now numbered 173, and they had been the means of saving 426 lives during the past year, nearly all of them under circumstances where no other description of life boat could be employed in such a service. They had also been instrumental in saving seventeen vessels, and on ninety other occasions had been launched to the assistance of vessels in distress. The committee were thankful to report that no life had been lost in connection with any of the life-boats during the past twelve months. The committee had decided to establish forthwith a life-boat at Mullion Cove, and the Wesleyan Methodists having collected money to defray the cost of a life-boat in memory of the late Rev. J. Draper, who perished in the ship London in the Bay of Biscay last year, and who was a native of Cornwall, the Draper life-boat would be placed at Mullion Cove.

The report was unanimously adopted, and the meeting was addressed by Lord Hardinge; Sir Stafford Northcote, M.P.; Lord Alfred Paget, the Lord Mayor, and several other distinguished personages.

Earl Percy moved a vote of thanks to his Royal Highness for having presided on the present occasion.

His Royal Highness, in brief but appropriate terms, acknowledged the compliment.

In the course of the proceedings subscriptions to the amount of £1000 were announced as having been given in support of the institution.

THE GOVERNMENT METROPOLITAN POOR BILL.

A CONFERENCE, which had been convened by the Tower Hamlets Association for the Equalisation of the Metropolitan Poor Rates, was held at the London Tavern, on Monday afternoon, for the purpose of discussing the provisions of Mr. Gathorne Hardy's bill on the subject of the metropolitan poor. Mr. J. Locke, M.P., took the chair, and there were present Sir Charles Bright, M.P.; Mr. Ayrton, M.P.; Sir Fowell Buxton, M.P.; the Rev. G. H. McGill, Christ Church, St. George's; Rev. G. T. Driffield, Rector, Bow; and several gentlemen connected with boards of guardians. In the discussion which ensued, the Rev. Mr. McGill expressed his opinion that the whole of the buildings which gave accommodation for the sick, as well as the separate asylums, should be placed on the common fund, and other cases, such as cancer, paralysis, consumption, &c., should be added, and that a rate in aid should be laid on the whole metropolis in cases of public distress, cholera, or other such diseases. He moved a resolution—"That the meeting, while cordially approving of the general principle of Mr. Hardy's bill, is of opinion that the charges proposed to be placed upon the common fund of the metropolis should be extended, so as to include, if not the whole of the expenses of the entire sick—at least cases of cancer, paralysis, and other acute and easily referable diseases, as also the whole of the buildings under the Act; and that a provision should be made for levying a rate in aid of the metropolis in the event of any special emergency pressing upon any particular district." Several gentlemen thought that the clauses 10 and 11 were ill-defined. "Elected managers shall be from time to time elected by the guardians of each of the several unions and parishes forming the district from among themselves, and from among ratepayers therein assessed to the poor rate on an annual rateable value of not less than £100. Nominated managers shall be from time to time nominated by the Poor-Law Board from among justices of the peace for any county or place resident in the district, and from among ratepayers resident in the district; and assessed to the poor rate on an annual rateable value of not less than £100." They thought it should be expressly stated whether this meant "exclusive occupation," and if so, that £50 was quite high enough; that it would be well to strike out the words "resident in the district." Mr. Ayrton, M.P., observed that while everyone had his opinion respecting the merits or demerits of the bill, he considered that it was little use their coming there to pass direct resolutions which might imply that the bill ought not to pass. At the same time they might point out any clause which they thought could not be carried into practice. Clauses 5 and 6 might be harmonised. He regarded the bill as a provisional one, and as advancing a certain extent. If any part were found in practice to be inconvenient or wrong, they must seek an alteration. His belief was that the bill was not well considered or well advised; but he did not recommend any public opposition to it. The Rev. Mr. McGill wished his resolution to be put, and Sir Fowell Buxton seconded it, though not with any intention of hindering the bill from passing. Still, there could be no harm for Mr. Hardy and others to know that, in their opinion, the bill might go further. After further conversation, the resolution was altered to the following:—"That this meeting, while cordially thanking Mr. Hardy for introducing his bill, resolves that a deputation should wait upon him for the purpose of suggesting that the charges proposed to be placed on the common fund of the metropolis should be extended, so as to include, if not the whole of the expenses of the indoor sick, at least all cases of disease requiring special treatment under clause 5 of the bill, and also the whole expenses of the buildings under the Act; and that a provision should be made for levying a rate in aid over the metropolis in the event of any special emergency pressing upon any particular district." This was agreed to; and, a vote of thanks having been given to the chairman, the meeting separated. It was understood that due notice would be given of the deputation waiting upon Mr. Hardy.

THE COAL-FIELDS OF AMERICA.—Next to England, the United States of America are the great depot of "black diamonds." In that country there are four vast areas, covering, it is computed, between 60,000 and 70,000 square miles. The capacity of the Pennsylvania mines is set at 20,000,000 tons a year; in Maryland, the coal which the "Canarders" burn lies 14 ft. thick and fifty miles long. Professor Smeaton estimates the seams in nine counties of Missouri to contain 25,000,000,000 tons of capital fuel; and another authority puts the supply at sufficient for 3000 years, if 100,000 tons were mined per day. Professor Rogers calculates the Illinois coal measures at 1,277,500,000,000 tons—a quantity six times greater than that contained in all the coal-fields of Great Britain, and sufficient, he thinks, to last for 100,000 years; while Pittsburg boasts that she has seams around her containing 55,516,480,000 tons.—*The Engineer.*

MR. PEABODY'S GIFT TO THE POOR OF LONDON.

THE following is the statement of the trustees for the year 1866:—"Conformably to the expressed wish of Mr. Peabody that on each year a report of the application of funds given by him, together with the amount of receipts and expenditure, should be laid before the public, the trustees have directed the following statement to be prepared. The annexed account will show that the original fund has been increased by the earnings of interest and rent to the extent of £15,416 8s. 11d., making the sum total of the trust at the end of December, 1866, £165,416 8s. 11d. The buildings at Spitalfields and Islington continue to be fully occupied; good order and contentment prevail; and the tenants, in the full enjoyment of new social comforts, and exempted from any interference with their independence and freedom of action, show no disposition to change. The ample playgrounds, being exclusively for the tenants, are a source of much satisfaction to the parents, and conduce to the health and morality of the children. The sanitary condition of the buildings continues highly satisfactory. During the recent unhealthy season, when cholera and other prevalent diseases infested the vicinity of the buildings, both at Spitalfields and Islington, one case of cholera in the former only occurred; and its contraction and fatal termination were mainly ascribable to imprudence and neglect on the part of the patient. Including this case, the whole number of adult deaths has been but seven in a population of nearly 900. Of these, three died of consumption, and two from old age and general infirmity. The mortality among children has, unfortunately, been greater—amounting to twenty-three; but nearly all these deaths occurred among families newly admitted, and most of whom had previously resided in crowded and unhealthy localities. Four blocks of buildings, affording accommodation for 195 families, have just been completed at Shadwell, and named, like those at Islington, Peabody-square. These, when filled, together with the others now occupied, will contain about 450 families, numbering about 2000 persons. The amount of capital invested in the land and buildings at Islington is £40,397 2s. 1d., the gross rents from which for the year amounted to £1717 16s. 9d.; and, after deducting £543 16s. 4d. for taxes, working expenses, and charges for repairs, alterations, and improvements, there remains a net return of £1174 0s. 5d. The investment in land and buildings at Spitalfields is £27,215 11s. 3d., and the amount of rents for the year, £1019 8s. 6d. Deducting £375 6s. 4d. for taxes, working expenses, and charges for repairs, alterations, and improvements, there remains a net return of £644 2s. 2d. The cost of the general management of the trust during the year, including printing, stationery, salaries, and small sundries, was £317 11s. Subsequent to the publication of their statement for the year 1865, Mr. Peabody, on Jan. 29, 1866, addressed a communication to the trustees, in which he announced his intention to augment his original gift of £150,000 by a further sum of £100,000, at present represented by 5000 shares of £20 each in the stock of the Hudson's Bay Company. It is the wish of Mr. Peabody that this further sum, with its reinvested dividends, should accumulate till the year 1869, when the aggregate amount is to be at the disposal of the trustees and applicable in the same manner as the original fund to ameliorate the condition of the labouring poor of London, and to promote their comfort and happiness without distinction of religion, persuasion or political bias. In the dedication of this further amount to these objects, Mr. Peabody has enlarged the sphere of its usefulness by enabling the trustees to possess themselves of freehold sites at any locality within ten miles from the Royal Exchange, accessible by means of railways. There has been received on account of this second gift of Mr. Peabody interest money amounting to £3640, which, in accordance with instructions contained in the trust deed, has been reinvested in the same stock. The fiscal statement, from the commencement of the trust to Dec. 31, 1866, is as follows:—

Debit.			
Cost of land and buildings at Spitalfields	£27,215	11 3
Do ditto Islington	40,397	2 1
Do ditto Shadwell to present time	40,982	3 1
Cost of Land, Chelsea	4,632	12 6
Do ditto Bermondsey	4,891	4 3
London, Brighton, and South Coast Railway Debentures	15,000	0 0
Do ditto	15,000	0 0
Midland Counties ditto	10,000	0 0
Cash balance	7,297	15 9
		£165,416	8 11
Credit.			
Original fund	£150,000	0 0
Interest earned	12,000	0 0
Rents from Spitalfields, less expenses	1,467	12 5
Do ditto Islington, ditto	1,407	12 3
		£165,416	8 11

OBITUARY.

SIR GEORGE SMART.—Sir George Thomas Smart, the veteran organist of the Chapel Royal, St. James's, and composer to the Queen, died on Saturday last, in his ninety-second year. He was born in 1776, was knighted in 1811, and was for many years an eminent and successful teacher of music. He succeeded Mr. Charles Knyvett as organist of the Chapel Royal, April 1, 1822, on the nomination of the late Archbishop of Canterbury (Howley) when Bishop of London and Dean of the Chapels Royal. It is understood that no fresh appointments in the household will take place in consequence of his death—Mr. George Cooper being sole organist, and Mr. John Goss, of St. Paul's, sole composer to her Majesty. Sir George directed the music at the coronations of King William IV. and Queen Victoria, and, as a conductor, had directed above ten hundred and twenty oratorios. Indeed, he may be styled the last link between the Handelian generation and our own, and many eminent living professors have gladly resorted to him to glean from him some of the musical traditions of past age. Weber was an intimate friend of his, and lived for a long time at his house; and Jenny Lind studied "The Messiah" with him preparatory to her first memorable appearance in English oratorio.

MR. JOHN PHILLIP, R.A.—While yet in the prime of life and in the height of his fame, Mr. Phillip has been suddenly taken away. About five weeks ago he suffered from low fever, from which, notwithstanding his gloomy fears, he gradually recovered, and there seemed every probability of his enjoying a long career of health and prosperity. Unfortunately, his instinct was more true than the hopes and wishes of his friends. On Tuesday, the 19th ult., while on a visit to Mr. Frith, he was suddenly seized with paralysis, and was removed home, half senseless and speechless. From that moment his constitution, never strong, gradually gave way; and on Wednesday he died. Mr. Phillip was born in Aberdeen, in the early part of 1817. Like many other celebrated artists, he commenced his career as a house-painter. During his apprenticeship he painted some studies of heads in his leisure hours, which attracted the notice of the late Lord Panmure, by whose liberality he was enabled to prosecute his studies in London. He entered the Royal Academy as a student in 1837, and astonished his fellow-labourers by his amazing dexterity, especially with the brush. From that day to the present he has been a constant contributor to the exhibitions of the Royal Academy. But, however skilful and dextrous was his work, Mr. Phillip never became famous until a happy thought led him to Spain, and the influence of Velasquez and the habits and costumes of the people roused his latent powers. His first Spanish picture—"The Letter-Writer," in the possession of her Majesty—at once placed him in a conspicuous position, which his subsequent works enhanced. He was made an Associate of the Royal Academy in 1857, and two years after he attained the full honour. This is not the time to enumerate his works nor to discuss their special merits; suffice it to say, that as a painter he was justly respected and admired. Of the many works he had in hand, two, at least, are sufficiently finished to allow of their being placed in the forthcoming exhibition of the Royal Academy. They will show that his powers, so far from being impaired, were in greater force than ever, and make us the more regret the loss art has sustained through his untimely death.

AN INDISTINCT WILL.—A curious misunderstanding has arisen respecting the wording of a testamentary bequest of M. Cousin. "Wishing," says that gentleman, "to give a last proof of affection to my honourable colleagues, M. Mignet, of the French Academy, and M. Barthélemy St. Hilaire, of the Academy of Moral and Political Sciences, I declare that I bequeath à chacun deux (or deux) cent mille francs." The writing being very indistinct the question to be decided is, does the testator leave to each 200,000 fr. or 100,000 fr.? The tribunals will have to solve the question.

PROGRESS OF CANADA.—The annual "Mercantile Agency Circular" shows that the year 1866 has been one of considerable prosperity in Canada. The repeal of the Reciprocity Treaty does not appear to have done any serious damage to Canadian interests. There was an active demand throughout the year for nearly every product the provinces had to spare, and prices were remunerative. Lumber never yielded so great a return. The grain crop was remarkably good; a large quantity of wheat is still in hand, owing to the difficulty of getting it all to market before the close of navigation. The wool crop was large, but the price not so high as heretofore; on this article alone the abrogation of the Reciprocity Treaty appears to have had an injurious effect. Nevertheless, farmers get a good price as compared with five years ago, and the deficiency, if any, was more than made up by the increased production of flax, an article which is assuming increasing importance in Canada. Manufactures in Canada continue to increase year by year, and few have any idea of the number of persons who thus find remunerative employment. Excessive importations of goods lessened the profits which would have been derived from more legitimate operations; but the stock now in hand in excess of the probable winter demand is not large. The wholesale merchants and the retailers have found their accounts come in well. There is much less now of the long credit that used to be given in the interior; but there are in numerous country localities too many persons engaged in trade, and profits among retailers are in consequence very fine. The purchasing power of the people is as large, if not larger, than ever before.—*Toronto Globe.*

A SPANISH HORSE-DEALER.

SOME of those types of Spanish life of which we have recently given illustrations are dying out. Spain is suffering a change; and in twenty years, although the Government may be still arrogant and conservative, material progress and the inventions of science, which are too many at last even for conservative rulers, will have strangely altered the customs and, it may be added, the costumes of the people.

Those strange and picturesque peasants, mule-drivers, and gipsies who have been hitherto associated with life in Spain, will thenceforth be seen only in remote districts or on the painter's canvas; and even the mule or horse dealer, Spanish gipsy by birth and semi-brigand in appearance, may be amongst the things that were. He exists at present, however; and our Engraving shows him in the full affluence of his striking and handsome dress—the dress of the well-to-do "chaco," the comparatively wealthy "gitano." Of course, there are other horse-dealers and jockeys than the gitanos in Spain; but to traffic in these animals, to clip and shear them, to cure them, to steal them, to hocus them, and to sell them, are the favourite employments of the gipsies. The law forbids, or did forbid, them to be jockeys, or to follow even the trade of trimming and shearing, without some other visible means of subsistence; but they manage to evade the law; and they remain horse-dealers and dealers in mules. It is incurring considerable risk to purchase one of these animals even from a respectable-looking gitano without some previous knowledge of the creature bought and of his former owner, the chances being that it is unsound or that it has been stolen from a distance.

The gitanos are in general very poor, a large pair of shears and several scissors being their implements of trade; but there are some who carry on a very extensive business in horses, mules, and



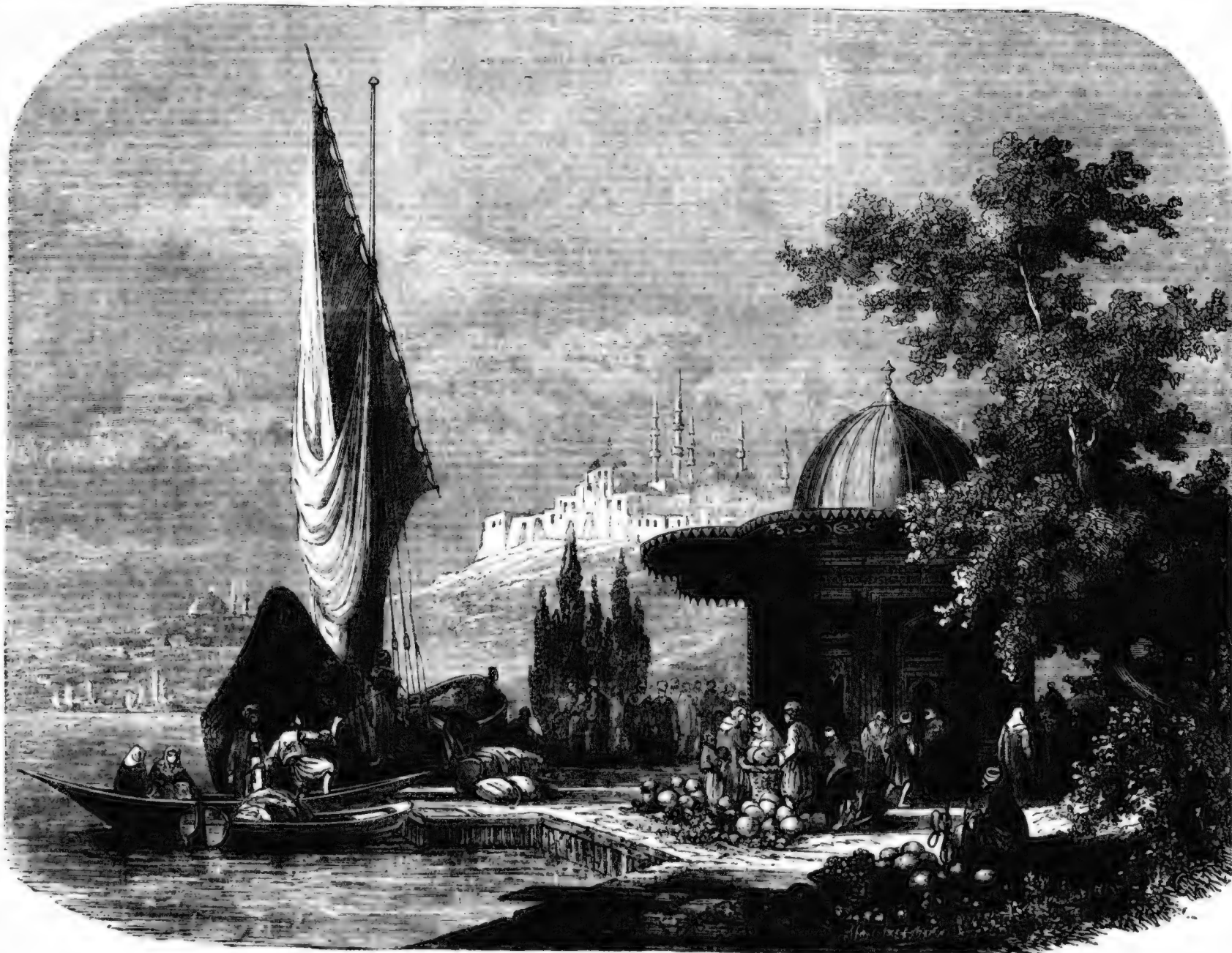
"A SPANISH GIPSY HORSEDEALER."—(FROM A WATER-COLOUR PAINTING BY M. RACHAU.)

donkeys. These occasionally visit the most distant fairs, traversing the greater part of Spain for the purpose. A whole family of them will travel together, the men wearing zamarras, with massy clasps and knobs of silver, and the women gold-embroidered riding-habits and immense gold ear-rings under their shining jetty hair.

The dress of the gitano varies with the country which he inhabits. Both in Roussillon and Catalonia his habiliments generally consist of jacket, waistcoat, pantaloons, and a red faja, which covers part of his waistcoat; on his feet he wears hempen sandals, with much ribbon tied round the leg as high as the calf; he has, moreover, woollen or cotton stockings; round his neck he wears a handsome handkerchief, carelessly tied; and in the winter he has a blanket or mantle, with sleeves, cast over the shoulders; his head is covered with the indispensable red cap. The neck and elbows of the jacket are adorned with pieces of blue and yellow cloth, embroidered with silk, as well as the seams of the pantaloons. He wears, moreover, on the jacket or the waistcoat various rows of silver buttons, small and round, sustained by rings or chains of the same metal.

A FOUNTAIN AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

WHEN shall we ever cease to regard the City of the Golden Horn as the place where we may seek an unfailing supply of subjects for the painter's canvas? There is no city in the world like it, for it is a city of rich effects and strange contrasts of light and shade, of sun and mud, of gold and dirt, of perfumes and stenches, of beggary and jewels, of bustling indolence, of antiquity and innovation, of turbans and pith helmets, of curly-toed slippers and top-boots, of caftans and chignons—of all sorts of incongruities in fact, amidst which there are many things that abide, things of beauty, which seem as though they would be joys for ever. Amongst these—principal of them all



A WATERSIDE FOUNTAIN AT CONSTANTINOPLE.

indeed—are the fountains. There are all sorts and sizes of fountains in this City of the Sun, beautiful structures built up of slender pillars and covered with a canopy of tracery; great dark shadowy piles set near dead walls in a cool breadth of shadow; façades of white marble covered with elaborate arabesques, and surmounted by Chinese roofs; and, above all, those ancient cisterns—huge covered excavations—with roofs supported on marble columns.

It is a rare sight to look through the maze of these columns from the brink of the water and lose one's-self in the cool, gloomy labyrinth that stretches beyond—a sight which almost drives one to the upper world again—to the bright, scorching sunlight, and the glitter and bustle of the port, and its crowd of shipping dancing on the blue water by the quays. Returning to the fountains, it must be remembered that water plays such a part in the life of the City of the Golden Horn—and, indeed, in that of all Mussulmans—that there are gourmands and connoisseurs of the pure element who can distinguish, even after long keeping, the bouquet of the Euphrates from that of the Nile, and know how to pronounce upon the difference between the taps of Europe and Asia. With that humanity, which is a part of their creed, the very birds are provided for by the establishment of drinking-fountains for the feathered race. In the great cemetery every monument is furnished with a hollow, in which the rain collects, and the visitor who walks amidst the mournful cypresses may see flocks of birds come down to drink from these little reservoirs. The ordinary fountains are covered by overhanging roofs, which throw deep shadows and keep the water cool—an advantage which it would be well for the next philanthropist who sets up a drinking-fountain in London to secure. There is always a supply of fresh cool water in Constantinople; and even on the brink of the Bosphorus, at the quays and landing-places, the fountains are a prominent feature. That represented in our Engraving is one of the most striking of the waterside structures. It is richly ornamented in arabesques, and has become one of the sights which attract European travellers, both for its architectural beauty and because it is the centre of the Mussulman market, where the artist may see a little of the real picturesque life of Constantinople and escape for a time from European innovations.

"THE OPERATING MONKEY."

OUR Engraving is taken from a picture which attracted considerable attention at the last Fine-Art Exhibition at Paris, and the painter, M. Rousseau, has treated the subject in a way certain to secure the admiration of a number of his visitors who look to the artistic skill rather than to the fun of the composition. The whole scene is wonderfully suggestive—the little shabby dispensary; the collection of bottles and funnels, and implements for physic-making; and amidst them all the grave, analytical face of the ape who has so often watched the very look and attitude of his master as he compounded the mixtures "to be taken three times a day." Alas! for the patients whose prescriptions include the compound tincture now being concocted! Alas! for the nervous visitor who, thinking the doctor is at home, contrives to open the door of that mysterious apartment, and, in the uncertain light, begins to detail symptoms to that hirsute professor, who will respond by a chatter and a scream, instead of those bland accents which are in themselves as good as drugs, and are much more pleasant to take. We heartily rejoice that few doctors in our day have a fancy for keeping apes, although it may be feared that a great many of them are guilty of the economy of intrusting their drugs to unqualified assistants.



"IMITATION: JACKO AS CLEVER AS HIS MASTER."—(FROM A PICTURE, BY M. ROUSSEAU, IN THE FRENCH FINE-ART EXHIBITION.)

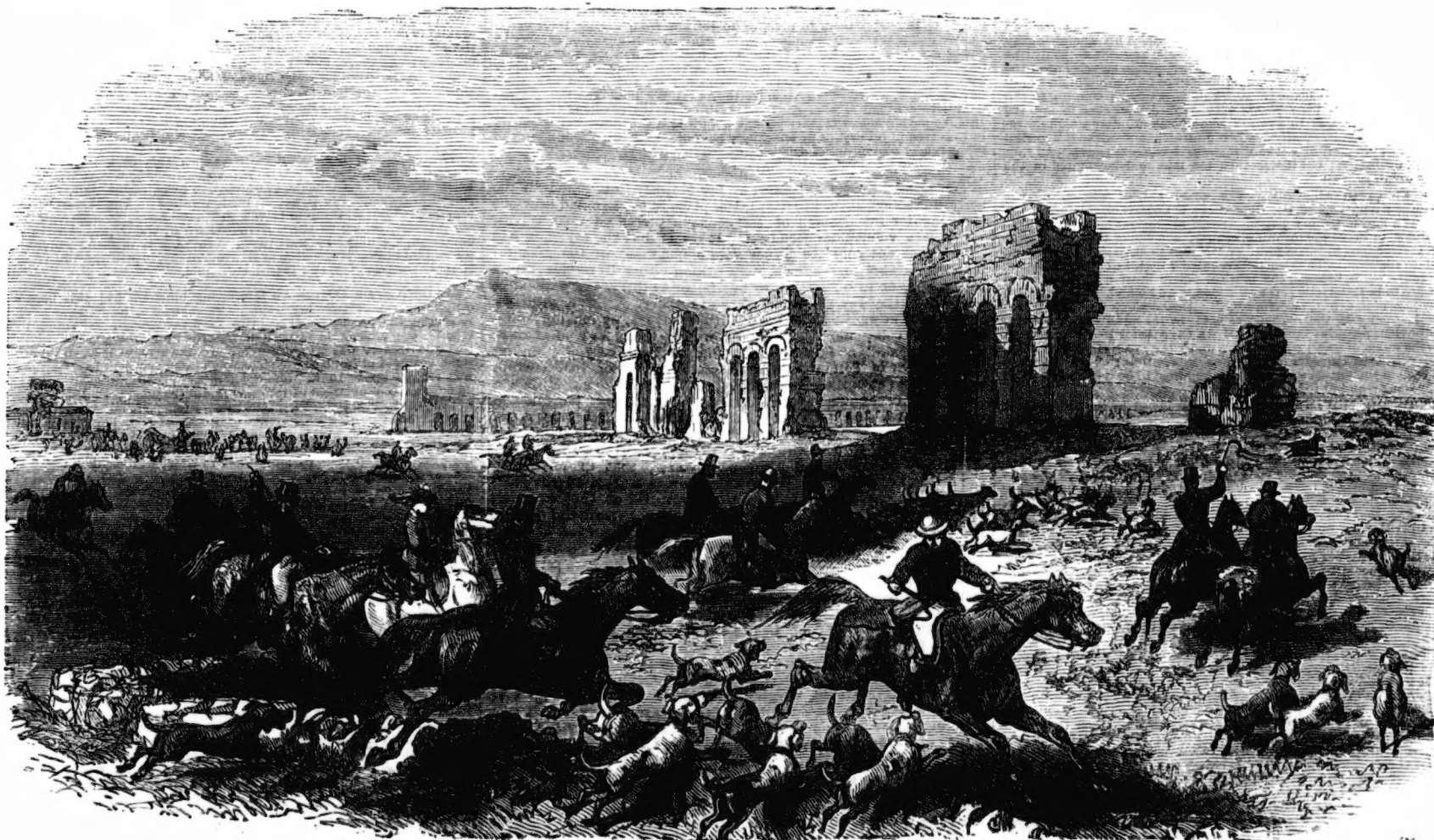
A FOX-HUNT IN THE CAMPAGNA.

AMONGST the events which have occurred in Rome during the season was one which, though it is an annual observance, has not always commanded so large a share of attention. The Roman hunt, although it is well known to the regular visitors of the Imperial city, is calculated to surprise strangers; and, indeed, the very idea of a fox-chase in the Campagna is enough to upset the proprieties and make havoc of all classical associations.

The Roman hunt probably does not date earlier than the period of the invasion of Rome by the English aristocracy, after the fall of Napoleon, when the Pope became fashionable, and Rome was the genteel place to winter in; but we generally hear very little of this sporting anniversary, except that many noblemen and gentle-

men come to grief in their efforts to make it resemble a meet at Pytchley or a run across a couple of English shires. An able special correspondent says, "The consequence was that with melancholy frequency the noble sportsman's horse would shy at the stump of a Corinthian column, or fling him neck and crop into the profundities of a sepulchral monument; and it was obviously more classical than convenient to crack your skull by contact with the broken bust of a defunct Prætor, and be carried to the hospital on a bronze door. So, for this reason, as well as in consequence of the political troubles of 1849, the hunt in the Campagna fell into abeyance. The Pope didn't like it; the noble Roman sportsmen only pretended to like it; and the British visitors were not numerous enough to carry it on, so it languished until 1864, when it was revived, and still survives in all its glory, and with the full concurrence of the Pontifical authorities, with a special proviso that the noble sportsmen should be accompanied by a mounted corps of pioneers, consisting of one contadino on horseback, equipped with an axe and a pick to cut down hedges and knock down stone walls. The hunt is placed under the management of a committee of Roman noblemen, and consists of about one hundred members, or *azionisti*, each paying 150*l.* a year, and engaging to keep up their subscriptions for at least three years. Strangers may become annual members, and those staying for a short time are welcome to join the meet, a privilege claimed mostly by English tourists. Indeed, the whole occasion is essentially a British one, and is, therefore, not without the geniality, jollity, and, at the same time, the eccentricity and conservatism, of the Anglo-Saxon. The meet of this last season was to take place at the Tomb of Cecilia Metella, but it actually took place on a rising knoll on the left of the Appian Way. Fancy driving to such a trysting-place, amidst a wilderness of old churches, old pictures, old beggars, old women, and old clothes, and through the old Porta San Sebastiano, and the older arch of Drusus, on to the Appian Way, to reach it by the gigantic baths of Caracalla, and the still more gigantic, but more dilapidated, palace of the Cæsars; the tombs of the Scipios, and the Pompeys, and the Columbaria."

Once clear of the arch of Drusus, and the signs of the hunt began to appear. A great muster of ladies and gentlemen's steeds, gracefully-cut jackets, more graceful English faces, plumed hats, flying skirts, cambric handkerchiefs in the pockets of the saddles, daintily varnished boots, tiny gauntleted hands, whips with coral and amber handles, and all the rest of the properties of the fair huntresses, were seen amidst the tombs; while the gentlemen sported all kinds of costume, from the compromise of pepper-and-salt shooting jackets, with doeskins and high boots, to the scarlet and buckskin and bird's-eye scarf of the regular hunting uniform. There were, however, none of the true British foxhunters—the masters of hounds and the sportsmen, who are not ashamed of the stains upon their red coats; it was a dandified affair, with a connoisseur flavour about it. Probably the fox was waiting in the tomb of Cecilia Metella, along with a bat or an owl or two. But the meet was not there; it was, as has been said already, on the left-hand side of the Appian Way; and a great sight it was, according to the description of an eye-witness. There were the hounds—thirteen couple and a half, the half being a young dog of pie-crust and creamy hue, who would wag his tail at the wrong time, and was continually incurring personal chastisement on that account. There were the English gentlemen-riders and the English lady-riders, and a very fair muster of noble Romans, some of whom appeared in true British scarlet and top-boots, while others favoured jackets and jockey caps of



A FOX-HUNT ON THE ROMAN CAMPAGNA.

black velvet, and varnished boots reaching mid-thigh. The show of horseflesh was capital, and as regards the noble sportsmen who had not brought their own hunters with them, but were content to hire them at the rate of 40s. for the day, the exhibition reflected the highest credit on the principal livery-stable keepers. There was a tent at the trying-place, with symptoms of refreshment; there were barouches and *recherché* equipages; and there were hired vehicles following in the track; while amidst all sounded the words, some of them a little slangy, of the "noble Saxon tongue."

After some twenty minutes giggling, and gossiping, and eye-glass quizzing, the huntman, the hounds, and the noble sportsmen set off, and the people from the carriages alighted to follow the hunt on foot. Fancy ladies prancing knee-deep amidst thistles and wild flowers, and having occasionally to climb stone walls! Well, there are various costumes; and perhaps the short, crinolineless skirts, the high boots, the jaunty sailor's hat, and the walking-stick of the last Parisian fashion for "out of town" were the least cumbersome. The hunt for a couple of hours consisted of covering stone walls, or going through them, of galloping and shooting, and performing all sorts of evolutions about the Campagna, with hounds, but with never a fox. There was plenty of cover; but, probably, the fox was in a tomb all the time. At all events, he was actually found in one at last, if not the fox—a fox; and, after a real run, he very wisely made his way into another tomb, where he was left to furnish sport on some future occasion. In fact, the Roman hunt is in the nature of a stage effect; and the chase is a little too histrionic to make the find a matter of great importance to sportsmen.

OPERA AND CONCERTS.

THE opera season is not expected to commence until very late this year. At the beginning of April all habitual sight-seers and amateurs of what is new and strange will be in Paris, inspecting the wonders of the great Exhibition. Easter falls at the end of April; and probably neither of our Italian Operas will open until Tuesday, April 26.

At the last Monday Popular Concert a sestet was introduced by a composer (Herr Johannes Brahms) who is almost, if not quite, new to concert-goers in England. Herr Brahms, is known to a portion of the reading public, however, by a long and interesting memoir published some two or three years ago in the *Musical World*, and to the frequenters of the Monday Popular Concerts by a sestet which is said to have been brought forward at the recommendation of Herr Joachim, and for which Herr Joachim, in the capacity of leader, certainly did his best. His associates were M.M. Ries, Blagrove, Zerbini, Paque, and Piatti; and nothing was left to be desired in the execution of the work. The two first movements, in which the writing is often confused, produced no very favourable impression; neither did the fourth; but the scherzo was much admired, and was very warmly encored. The writer of the article on Herr Brahms, already mentioned, calls attention to the fact that of all the young composers of Germany, there is not one about whom a greater diversity of opinion exists. Johannes Brahms was introduced to the musical world by Robert Schumann in 1853, when he was but nineteen years of age. The immediate effect of Schumann's laudatory notice was "that his disciples felt inclined to greet with shouts of joy one thus recommended, while the master's adversaries were ready to cry the whole thing down." Brahms's first efforts did not come up to the expectations that had been excited; but, after devoting himself to serious study in Hanover, Düsseldorf, and Hamburg, he composed several pieces for the piano, which were received with favour, and so obtained considerable success as a pianist. He has, moreover, written several quartets, and the sestet played on Monday evening is one of two.

Mme. Schumann, about whose playing (as our readers are aware) the most contrary and irreconcilable opinions are entertained, performed at this concert Beethoven's sonata in E flat, the most generally admired of all his sonatas, if we except the universally-appreciated "Moonlight Sonata." This energetic pianist succeeded, as usual, in impressing her audience through what the *Athenæum* calls "a show of fervour." Her execution seems to us very uneven. She played some portions of the sonata beautifully, and others only violently. Herr Joachim on this occasion had no solo given to him; but he led Herr Brahms's sestet and Haydn's trio in G (with which the concert concluded), and he also took part with Mme. Schumann in Mozart's duet in A. Miss Edith Wynne formerly the pride of Wales, now the pride and hope of Great Britain in general, sang, with the utmost purity of voice and style, the "Maiden and the River" by Beethoven, and "The Young Nun," by Schubert. If Wales, the land of the old bards, and also, it would appear, of very admirable soprano singers in the modern style, would produce a few more Edith Wynnes, we would tolerate, without a murmur, the celebration of any number of Eisteddfods.

FATAL DEVICE BY A STUDENT.—A fatal act of imprudence has been committed by a young student in an educational establishment at Rheims. A youth named Renaut, aged fifteen, had been confined to the sick-room on account of a slight indisposition, and had there passed his whole time in reading, particularly the history of France. When restored to health he found himself unable to continue his favourite occupation on account of the regular routine of the school business, so he determined to simulate illness in order to return to the infirmary. A botanical garden belonging to the establishment, in which all the plants were ticketed, suggested to him the means. He was so foolish as to swallow some hemlock, after which he returned to the house and complained of being unwell, but without avowing what he had done. Shortly after the symptoms became so aggravated that he made a full confession; but it was then too late, and he expired in the course of the evening.

REVISED EDUCATIONAL CODE.—The usual annual edition of the Revised Code of regulations of the Committee of Council on Education has been issued as a Parliamentary paper. Some alterations have been introduced in order to make the meaning clearer, and one or two paragraphs from the "Instructions to Inspectors" or "Notice to Managers" have been transferred to the code. To the article requiring that, before admission of candidates into a normal school, the medical officer must certify the state of their health to be satisfactory, is now added, "And whether they are free from bodily lameness, defect, or deformity." Amendments are also introduced to correspond with the regulations made by the minute of last June. There is an obvious misprint in article 136. In the code for 1867 that article relating to the union of small rural schools under the superintendence of an ambulatory certificated master or mistress stands thus:—"The resident teacher of each of the united schools is now required to be certificated;" it should be, "is not required to be certificated."

THE SHORT-TIME MOVEMENT.—In a circular issued by the secretary of the Preston Spinners and Minders' Association, the following observations are made relative to the frequent agitation in Lancashire for a reduction in the hours of factory operatives:—"The eight-hours movement appears to be the universal adoption of the working classes, not only in this country, but in all others where cotton is being spun and manufactured. General public meetings have been held of factory workers to test their feelings as regards appealing to Government for improvement upon the present Factory Bill in two points—first, that the hours of labour be reduced from ten and a half to eight hours per day, or forty-eight hours per week; secondly, to prevent overtime working and men from being discharged for refusing to work beyond the time prescribed by the law for women and young persons. That such restrictions should be put upon the moving power is a question that has long been settled by the factory-workers of the present generation, and the want of such an Act has long been felt. At different times, some employers, even of our own town, have run their engines, not very long since, till twelve o'clock at night; and very frequently, in our own branch, we have had men discharged for refusing to work till seven or eight o'clock, a course which, from time to time, has cost our association some hundreds of pounds by paying the men when discharged. And some employers, that we could name have gone round themselves and asked our men to work overtime, and where a direct refusal was met with they were told that they must take the consequences for not complying. We all know what that means. Past experience tells us clearly enough that, if overtime must be done away with and men prevented from being discharged for refusing to work after a given period, restriction must be put upon the motive power. One of our employers in Preston started to a deputation that waited upon him, requesting him to run short time instead of reducing the wages 5 per cent, that he could not afford to work any shorter time, but would like to run his works five hours a day longer. Some newspaper writers, who pretend to know all our business, say that we are free agents, and can please ourselves whether we work overtime or not; and that we require no enactments to regulate the hours of labour for adults in factories. It so happens that we know something to the contrary, and would recommend a few of those sceptics to go and engage in a factory, and work themselves up to a spinner and continue in that situation for another five years. When they have done this, we will acknowledge that they know something about the factory system and the freedom that exists therein."

ELECTION COMMISSIONS.

GREAT YARMOUTH.

THE report of the Great Yarmouth Bribery Commission gives a minute and interesting narrative of the bribery at the election in 1865 on both sides; and, in addition to this, a similar account of the bribery practised at the two elections immediately preceding in 1859 and 1857. The following is the finding of the Commissioners with regard to the last election:—

We find, in respect of the said election of 1865, that corrupt and illegal practices extensively prevailed thereat; that the said election was conducted on behalf of Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson in a corrupt and illegal manner; that Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson paid to their election agent the sum of £893 10s. 11d., and no more, for their joint expenses of the said election; that a further sum of £4000 was advanced by Mr. Samuel Nightingale, of which £3500 was paid to Mr. John Cooper and £500 to Mr. Isaac Shuckford, to be expended in bribing the electors to vote for Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson; but that it was not proved that the said sum was advanced with the knowledge or consent of Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson; that of this money a sum of £3830 was expended in illegal payments, of which a sum of £2267 was expended in bribing 144 electors, whose names appear in the schedule hereto annexed, to vote for Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson; that of the sum of £1563, balance of the said sum of £3830, the greater part was expended in bribing about sixty electors, whose names we were unable to ascertain, to vote for Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. Goodson, and the remainder was retained by the agents and sub-agents as payment for their illegal services; that a further sum of £15 was expended by Stephen John Frederick Stafford in bribing Abraham Solomon to vote for Sir Edmund H. K. Lacon and Mr. James Goodson. We find that the said election was conducted, by and on behalf of Mr. Alexander Brodgen and on behalf of Mr. Philip Vanderbyl, in a corrupt and illegal manner; that Mr. Alexander Brodgen and Mr. Philip Vanderbyl paid to their election agent the sum of £643 13s. for their joint expenses of the said election, of which sum £150 only was paid by Mr. Philip Vanderbyl; that Mr. Marshman paid to his election agent the sum of £101 15s. 8d. for his expenses of the canvass. That a further sum of £6000 was paid by Mr. Alexander Brodgen for the illegal purposes of the election; of this money a sum of £3428 10s. was expended by Mr. Cornelius Satterthwaite in bribing 206 electors, and a sum of £1502 was expended by Mr. John Edwards in bribing eighty electors, whose names appear in the schedule hereto annexed, to vote for Mr. Brodgen and Mr. Vanderbyl; and that of the balance of £1169 10s., part was expended in bribing about fourteen electors, whose names we were unable to ascertain, to vote for Mr. Brodgen and Mr. Vanderbyl, part was paid to the agents or retained by the local sub-agents as payment for their illegal services, and a small sum remained to the credit of Mr. Brodgen. That before the said election Mr. Philip Vanderbyl entered into a corrupt agreement with Mr. Brodgen that, in the event of his being returned, he would repay Mr. Brodgen one half of the money so advanced by him for the purposes of bribery. We find that ninety-eight persons, whose names are set forth in Schedule A annexed to this report, committed corrupt practices and were guilty of acts of bribery in respect of the votes of other persons. That 439 persons, whose names are set forth in Schedule B, annexed to this report, committed corrupt practices and were guilty of acts of bribery in respect of their own votes; that twenty-nine of the persons named in the last-mentioned schedule, and whose names are set forth in Schedule C, annexed to this report, were guilty of acts of bribery on both sides.

REIGATE.

The conclusions at which the Reigate Commissioners have arrived are as follows:—

1. We find that bribery and treating extensively prevailed at the election in February, 1858. 2. We find that bribery and treating extensively prevailed at the election in October, 1858. 3. We find that bribery and treating extensively prevailed at the election in 1859. 4. We find that bribery and treating extensively prevailed at the election of 1863. 5. We find that a sum of about £2500 was paid by Mr. Gower to his agent, Mr. Smith, for the purpose of the election in 1863, and that part of that sum was expended by him, with the knowledge of Mr. Gower, in bribery and treating. 6. We find that a sum of about £3100 was paid by Mr. A. Wilkinson to his agent, Mr. James, in 1863, and that a large portion of that sum was expended by him, with the knowledge of Mr. Wilkinson, in bribery and treating. 7. We find that bribery and treating extensively prevailed at the election in 1865; that of the 760 who voted at that election 346 were bribed; that of that number 296 were occupiers of houses not exceeding £20 a year rental. 8. We find that a sum of nearly £2000 was paid by Mr. Gower to his agent, Mr. Smith, and that part of that sum was expended by him, with the knowledge of Mr. Gower, in bribery; that £500, forming part of the £2000, was knowingly paid by Mr. Gower three months after the election to Mr. Smith, partly in discharge and partly in repayment of money expended in bribery at the election in 1865. 9. We find that a sum of £1376 5s. 4d. was advanced by Mr. Monson to his agent, Mr. Hart, for the purposes of the election in 1865. 10. We find that a sum of £1730 was advanced on account of and in respect of the election in 1865 by Mr. Monson to Mr. James Nichols, who was not his duly-constituted agent, and whose name and address were not declared in writing to the returning officer on or before the day of nomination; that this sum was expended by Mr. Nichols, with the knowledge of Mr. Monson, in bribery and treating. 11. We find that at the elections in 1863 and 1865 John Heath Apter, Charles Apter, Thomas Barker, Thomas Corderoy, David Durrant, Charles Emery, Henry Green, William Holdsworth, Thomas Jordan, Frederick Joyce, Joseph Kenward, William Langridge, James Mazden, James Nichols, Ephraim Rose, and John Shepherd were the persons principally engaged in bribing the poorer classes of voters in the borough of Reigate under the influence of these corrupt practices. 12. We find that the persons named in Schedule A to this report annexed were guilty of bribery at one or more of the elections by receiving money or other valuable consideration for having given, or to induce them to give, or to refrain from giving, their votes. 13. We find that the persons named in Schedule B were guilty of bribery at one or more of the elections by giving or promising money, or other valuable consideration, to voters for the purchase of their votes, or by corruptly giving money or other valuable consideration on account of any voter having voted, or refrained from voting. 14. We find that the persons named in Schedule C were guilty of bribery at the elections of 1863 or 1865, by paying money to other persons with intent that such money should be expended in bribery, or by knowingly paying to other persons money in discharge, or repayment, of money expended in bribery.

TOTNES.

The Commissioners appointed by her Majesty to inquire into the corrupt practices alleged to have taken place at the last and previous elections for the borough of Totnes have presented their report, which is a voluminous document. It states that the evidence had shown that not only the poorer voters, but many of the most influential persons in the town, were willing either to receive bribes themselves, or to offer them to others, or to throw every possible obstacle in the way of the discovery of bribery. Certain witnesses named had committed wilful and corrupt perjury, by making statements on oath, the falsehood of which they had afterwards acknowledged. The Commissioners find that at every election for the borough of Totnes since and including that of 1857 corrupt practices had extensively prevailed; that in 1857 Thomas Mills was privy and consenting to the corrupt practices that prevailed at that election, and that the persons named in Schedule A of the report committed corrupt practices, and were guilty of bribing other persons; that those named in Schedule B were guilty of bribery in respect of their own votes; that in respect of the election of 1859 John Dunne and Thomas Mills were privy and assenting to the corrupt practices that prevailed at that election; that the persons named in Schedules C and D were guilty of corrupt practices and bribery, the former in respect of the votes of other persons, and the latter in respect of their own votes; that in respect of the elections of 1862 John Pender and John Dent were privy and assenting to the corrupt practices then prevailing, and that the persons mentioned in Schedules E and F were guilty of bribery and corrupt practices; that in respect of the election of 1862 Alfred Seymour, M.P., and John Dent were privy and assenting to the corrupt practices which then prevailed, and that the persons named in Schedules G and H were guilty of corrupt practices and bribery; and that in respect of the election of 1865 John Pender, Alfred Seymour, M.P., William Gregory Dawkins, and Bedford Pim were privy and assenting to the corrupt practices that prevailed at that election, and that the persons named in Schedules I and K were guilty of corrupt practices and bribery.

THE THREATENED BOROUGH.—The following are the boroughs which, having a less population than 7000 each, and now returning two members, are, according to the Chancellor of the Exchequer's statement on Monday night, to be asked by the House to give up one of their seats:—Lichfield (city), Dorchester, Hertford, Devizes, Great Marlow, Bodmin, Cirencester, Maldon, Huntingdon, Ripon (city), Ludlow, Tewkesbury, Leominster, Andover, Knaresborough, Lynton, Richmond (Yorkshire), Harwich, Marlborough, Evesham, Wells (city), Thetford, and Boniton—in all twenty-three, which, with seven to be had from the proposed disfranchisement of Lancaster, Great Yarmouth, Reigate, and Totnes, will make the thirty seats to be redistributed.

EXTRAORDINARY BULLION ROBBERY.

ON Tuesday afternoon, between three and four o'clock, Messrs. Rothschild dispatched a covered van from their banking establishment in St. Swithin's-lane, Cannon-street, City, with twenty-four cases of bullion for shipment to Hambourg and Rotterdam. The van belonged to a carrier who has been many years employed by them. The custom of the house in forwarding or receiving bullion or specie from any part of the metropolis is to make a person in their employment accompany the vehicle. On the present occasion, the twenty-four cases (weighing about 2 cwt. each), were to be shipped on board two steamers lying in the river. Twelve of the cases were for the Waterloo, Captain Stranach, bound to Rotterdam, and the other twelve for the John Bull steamer, bound to Hambourg. Both belonged to the General Steam Navigation Company; the former then lying alongside the Harpy revenue cutter off the Tower, and the John Bull off Horseleydown. All the cases were marked and lettered, and the person sent with them was provided with two lists, or tallies, of the marks on the cases, in order that he might tick them off in shipping them, persons representing the steamer being furnished with a duplicate list to do the same as they received them. The van proceeded to Nicholson's Wharf, where the bullion was taken out and placed in a boat belonging to Mr. Gray, lighter-man, of Water-lane, which was lying off the wharf, and then pulled off alongside the Waterloo. The steamer had been taking in cargo, and was in charge of the chief mate. The moment the bullion boat came up he attended to the shipment of the cases. They were landed up by the vessel's crane two at a time, and immediately lowered into the fore hold of the vessel, the representative of Messrs. Rothschild ticking them off his list as they left his custody, and when the twelve had been put on board he received from the chief mate a receipt of their safe delivery on board and left. The chief mate went into the hold with the boatman and saw them securely stowed away, and as other goods came down these were placed round the bullion cases so as to fill up the 'tween decks. The hatches were then put on and fastened with iron bars; these were secured with a padlock, locked by the chief mate, who kept possession of the key. There were on board at this time ten hands of the crew (Captain Stranach was not on board), and three Custom-House officers. The latter came on board the Waterloo at Gravesend on her home-ward trip, last Saturday, and, in accordance with the Custom-House regulations, would remain on board till the steamer had cleared Gravesend on her outward trip. At night-time they kept watch and watch the same as the crew did, and during the whole of Tuesday night and Wednesday morning there were always two persons on deck keeping watch; indeed, if they are to be relied on, they never quitted the deck for a moment; and yet, by some unaccountable means, two of the cases of bullion were abstracted from the hold, and the thieves got clear off with them. The intention, no doubt, was to carry off the whole of the twelve cases, as the thieves seem to have had a lighter alongside the steamer to receive them; but they were disturbed, and made off. The robbery was not discovered till six o'clock on Wednesday morning, when the chief mate unlocked the padlocks and removed the bars for the men to remove the hatches. It was at once seen that the cargo had been disturbed during the night, and upon the mate examining the cases two were found to be gone; and from appearance, it was quite evident that they had passed upward up the hatchway, and that the hatches had been removed. It is impossible for one man to have passed the cases up on to the deck on account of their weight—2 cwt. each—the distance being some 10 ft. or 12 ft.; and the conclusion arrived at is that the thieves must have hauled them up with a pulley rope attached to the top of the steamer's crane, and by the same means lowered the cases into a lighter alongside; but how this could have been done with one of the crew and a Custom-House officer on deck on the lookout is the most extraordinary part of the affair. As soon as the discovery was made the Thames police were called on board, and strict search was made by them among all the vessels lying near the Waterloo for stolen cases, but without avail, and during the day the officials of the General Steam Navigation Company were engaged making a searching investigation into the whole facts of the robbery; but, with the exception of showing that a lighter which was moored alongside the steamer the night previous had disappeared in the morning without the consent of its owner, nothing has transpired. The affair has been placed in the hands of the City detective force in conjunction with the Thames police, and every means will be taken to apprehend the guilty parties. The cases contained bars of silver, and their value is estimated at upwards of £2000.

BRITISH NORTH AMERICAN CONFEDERATION.—Papers lately presented to Parliament contain the resolutions adopted as the basis of the proposed confederation at the conference of delegates in London in December last. The resolutions are substantially the same as those agreed to at Quebec in October, 1864; but they are now confined to the federal union of Upper Canada, Lower Canada, Nova Scotia, and New Brunswick. On the subject of the power of the local Legislatures to make laws respecting education, the following new clause is introduced:—"In any province where a system of separate or dissentient schools by law obtained, or where the local Legislature may hereafter adopt such a system, an appeal shall lie to the Governor-General in Council from the acts and decisions of the local authorities which may affect the rights or privileges of the Protestant or Catholic minority in the matter of education; and the general Parliament shall have power, in the last resort, to legislate on the subject." A clause has also been introduced providing that "all the powers, privileges, and duties conferred and imposed upon Catholic separate schools and school trustees in Upper Canada shall be extended to the Protestant and Catholic dissentient schools in Lower Canada." In the list of subjects on which the General Parliament is to have power to make laws there stood in the resolutions of 1864 the following:—"The regulation of trade and commerce, the imposition or regulation of duties of customs on imports and exports, except on exports of timber, logs, masts, spars, deals, and sawn timber, and of coal and other minerals, the imposition and regulation of excise duties, the raising money by all or any other modes or systems of taxation." For this is now substituted the following:—"The regulation of trade and commerce, the raising of money by all or any other mode or system of taxation." The list of subjects on which the local Legislatures are to have power to make laws began in 1864 as follows:—"Direct taxation, and the imposition of duties on the export of timber, logs, masts, spars, deals, and sawn timber, and of coal and other minerals;" but it is now runs thus:—"Direct taxation, and in the case of New Brunswick the right of levying timber dues by the mode and to the extent now established by law, provided such timber be not the produce of the other provinces." In the clause stipulating for an annual grant from the General Parliament equal to eighty cents per head for local purposes in each province (up to a population of 400,000 souls in each), it is now provided that there shall also be paid, for the support of the local Governments and Legislatures (in consideration of the transfer to the General Parliament of the powers of taxation), 80,000 dollars to Upper Canada, 70,000 dollars to Lower Canada, 60,000 dollars to Nova Scotia, and 40,000 dollars to New Brunswick. The power of pardon vested in the Governor of each province in Council is not to extend to capital cases; this prerogative will, we presume, belong to the Governor-General, the representative of the sovereign, appointed by the Crown. Provision is made for the future admission into the confederation of Newfoundland, Prince Edward Island, the North-West Territory, and British Columbia.

STATISTICS OF COAL.—An interesting bluebook has just been issued containing reports from her Majesty's secretaries of Embassy and Legation respecting the production of coal in different countries. According to these reports, the production of coal in Austria in 1864 was 4,499,133 English tons; in 1865 it was 5,028,089 tons. In Bavaria, in 1865, the quantity of stone coal and brown coal produced was 435,602 tons; in 1869 the quantity was 260,000 tons. In Belgium the number of coal-mines was 287, and the amount of coal obtained in 1865 was 11,810,703 tons, the quantity exported in the year being 3,568,408 tons. In Brazil there were no extensive workings of coal. Some of the coal beds, however, were of great depth, and presented great facilities for working by open quarrying. In France, in 1864, the production was 11,061,918 English tons; in 1865 it was 11,297,052 tons. In the year the import of coal amounted to 7,108,286 tons, of which 1,455,296 tons were drawn from Great Britain; the exports in 1865 were 335,120 tons. Prussia is rich in mineral fuel; the total amount of stone coal and brown coal produced on an average in this country in 1864 was 21,465,600 English tons; in 1865 it was 13,544,000 tons. The coal-pits of the river Ruhr extend over ten miles in length, a Prussian mile being equal to 2,400 Russian feet, nearly 4½ English miles. The western parts of Prussia are so richly furnished with mineral fuels, particularly with coals, that they do not depend for their supply on foreign countries, but rather give up a great part of their coal produce to the latter. In Russia no coal is exported, although the beds of the Donetz are rich in coal and other minerals; the amount of coal produced in this place was 128,571 tons; but this is a very insignificant quantity compared with the enormous mass of coal which the Donetz is capable of furnishing. In 1842 there were only 225 beds in a working condition, whereas now there are about 700, and each year the spring rains bring to light others. Coal-fields also exist on the Auto Russia in 1865. No coal is exported from Spain, and the quantity raised in the country is chiefly used for making coke and artificial fuel. Oviedo furnishes more than any other province; in 1863 it furnished 307,396 tons, the total produce being only 401,297 tons. Spain may be said to be dependent on England for her coal, notwithstanding the internal resources of the country. The effect of the differential duties has been to enhance the price of coal, while in their protective capacity they have in nowise assisted native production. In the United States the amount produced in 1865 was 17,417,617 tons. Out of this quantity Pennsylvania fields contain 1,277,500,000 tons, and that it would take 100,000 years to exhaust them; yet the United States, with their enormous productive resources, raise now but the paltry amount of about 20,000,000 tons. In New South Wales the supply of coal is very great. The quantity exported from the port of Newcastle exceeded 12,000 tons a week. In the United Kingdom in 1863, 88,292,516 tons of coals were raised, and in 1865 the quantity had increased to 99,150,387 tons.

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Number of Policy.	Date of Policy.	Annual Premium.	Sum Insured.	Amount with Bonus Additions.					
		£ s. d.	£	£ s. d.					
4718	1823	12s. 11d.	5000	10,632	14	3			
3024	1821	15s. 4d.	5	5000	10,164	19	0		
4937	1824	20s. 13d.	4	4000	9,537	2	3		
3027	1816	12s. 13d.	4	4000	8,576	11	3		
3944	1821	49s. 15d.	10	1000	2,498	7	6		
788	1808	29s. 18d.	4	1000	3,227	13	6		

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